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VOLUME LXIII, NUMBER 19000

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1995 • SIVAN 24, 5755 • MOHARRAM 24, 1416

NIS 4.20 (EILAT NIS 3.60)

No sign of girl missing on school outing

BATSHEVA TSUR

A MASSIVE search by police and volunteers was continuing last night near the Bnot Ya'acov Bridge on the Golan Heights, where an eight-year-old schoolgirl disappeared on Tuesday afternoon.

Esther Assias, a third-grader at the Moriah religious school in Karmiel, was on a trip with her class when she disappeared.

"At about 3 p.m., while the children were paddling in a natural pool at the Jordan's headwaters, Esther and another girl began fighting," Levi A. Fisher, spokesman for the Karmiel Municipality said yesterday. "The second child slipped and fell into the water, and the teacher and accompanying guards ran to pull her out. She was fine, but a few minutes later, they realized that Esther was missing."

An immediate search was mounted in the surroundings, while the class waited. After some time, when Esther could not be located, the shocked children were taken back to the school where they were met by psychologists and social workers, Fisher said. She said the class was accompanied by guards and other adults, in keeping with standing Education Ministry instructions for school trips.

Meanwhile, police aided by two helicopters and hundreds of high school pupils from Karmiel and the Golan Heights began combing the rocky area and searching the thick shrubs



Rescue workers search the banks of the Jordan River for signs of Esther Assias.

(Avihu Shapira / Israel sun)

around the river bed. Divers were also brought in to search two pools.

Many area residents, some with their personal ATVs or on horseback, joined the search, as did Beduin trackers from the

nearby village of Tuba.

Esther's father and relatives were provided with a megaphone to call her in Amharic and Hebrew, in case she was hiding in fear. The family came to Israel from Ethiopia in Oper-

ation Moses, but Israeli-born Esther speaks Amharic at home, Fisher said.

The Education Ministry plans to set up a committee of inquiry only after the girl has been found, a ministry spokesman said.

Rabin: Redeployment cost is settlers' fault

JOSE ROSENFELD and DAVID MAKOVSKY

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday blamed the settlements in outlying areas of Judea and Samaria for the high cost of redeploying the IDF.

Speaking at the Israeli Management Center's annual meeting in Jerusalem, Rabin noted that two settlements of 30 families each that he visited on Tuesday "will cost us \$250,000 per family to protect, even though the [settlements'] contribution to security is absolutely nil."

However, Rabin contrasted those settlements to those close to Jerusalem and the Green Line. He noted that he was not speaking of Gush Etzion and settlements along the Alon Road.

Rabin also took exception to the government's investment over the Green Line which have resulted in "cutting out several hundreds of millions of dollars from the [US] loan guarantees."

He bemoaned the fact that the spending to protect the settlements will come at the expense of investments in tourism and industry. Nevertheless, he reiterated the government's commitment to protect those settlements.

Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu responded that Israel creates a serious security problem with his plan to withdraw from Judea and Samaria, then he blames the settlers for its cost.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat also attributed the high cost of redeployment to the dilemma created by the structure of the diplomatic process, whereby "we don't eliminate the sources of the conflict, i.e. the Jewish settlements, and the Palestinians are unable to protect them. As a result, we have to pay a lot of money."

Earlier in the day, Rabin held

consultations with Shohat and senior IDF officers to consider the cost of the redeployment and bypass roads to protect settlers. The military asked for NIS 350 million in addition to the NIS 370m. advance the Treasury already transferred.

Although Shohat refused to indicate how much the redeployment will cost, reports say it will reach NIS 2b.

Shohat balked at the military's demands, fearing they will create budgetary problems with serious repercussions for the economy.

Rabin reportedly told Labor ministers earlier that one way to offset the added costs of redeployment is to cut the budgets of all ministries.

"I would not conceive of stopping the peace process because of budgetary problems," said Shohat. Nevertheless, he said that such large additional expenditures require a reshuffling of budgetary priorities, including within the defense budget.

"The defense establishment cannot live as if the money is coming from the sky, they also will have to make some adjustments, otherwise why will other ministers agree to cut their budgets," Shohat said.

He suggested the defense establishment delay construction and maintenance projects, as well as temporarily lower standards. For example, the basic training bases to be transferred across the Green Line could meet only minimal standards for several years.

Shohat said he will do his utmost to see that the cost of redeployment comes out of budget cuts and not from higher taxes or a higher deficit, which would only aggravate the already large balance-of-payment gap.

The first phase of an overall pullout is supposed to occur from

Nablus, Jenin, Kalkilya, and Tul-karm in advance of planned Palestinian elections sometime this fall.

However, Said Kanaan, a Nablus businessman and Fatah activist with close contacts in Labor Party circles, told Israel Radio he had heard the government would not leave Tul-karm or Kalkilya before the 1996 elections because their proximity to Netanya and Kfar Saba would make withdrawal unpopular.

He was confident, however, that redeployment from Nablus is imminent, following last week intensive "last minute" raids there in search of fugitives.

Israel says that redeployment from Ramallah and Bethlehem would come at a later stage due to the complications of constructing bypass roads.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said the bypass roads will be key in setting the pace of redeployment. "In those places where the bypass route will not be ready, or the security arrangements along the routes will not be ready, there will not be a redeployment, or there will be a partial redeployment," he said.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal has suggested a possibility in such areas may be joint patrols until redeployment occurs.

The problem is that in several areas, construction of bypass roads has not even begun - for example, from Eilon Moreh via Itamar to the Tapuah junction.

The plan is to purchase land from neighboring Arabs so the roads can be built. However, construction is likely to take many months, leaving open the question of how settlers will travel in the area during the interim, especially since part of a nearby access road enters Nablus.

Alon Pinkas and Jon Immanuel contributed to this report.

Japanese police seize jumbo hijacker

HAKODATE, Japan (AP) — In a dramatic dawn strike, dozens of police stormed a commandeered jumbo jet whose hijacker had threatened to blow it up with 365 people on board. The hijacker was seized, and TV reports said all the passengers were safe.

Television showed footage of riot police running up steps to the plane. The pilots were shown shaking hands in the cockpit. Moments later, ambulances with flashing lights converged on the plane. Passengers, looking drawn and tired, filed down steps and onto waiting buses. One man cradled a baby wrapped in a blanket.

The hijacker, who authorities said apparently acted alone, was hustled from the plane by police dressed as airline employees. His arms were bloodied and his head was swathed in a towel.

Japanese TV said one woman suffered a light stab wound and one police officer was kicked during the raid. A total of five people were taken to the hospital, television said.

Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama, told the ordeal had ended safely, replied: "Great!"

The raid capped a nearly 16-hour hostage drama that began when the All Nippon Airways flight was hijacked at noon yesterday local time on a flight from Tokyo to the northern city of Hakodate by a man brandishing an ice pick.

Shortly before police moved in, most of exterior lights on the plane went out. The first streaks of dawn lit the cold sky.

Some of the police were wearing chemical-protection gear, while others carried riot shields. One contingent, in plainclothes, advanced quietly and opened a gate behind the plane just before the larger force moved in.

TV footage aired after the raid was completed showed police scrambling up small ladders through hatches into the plane's underbelly. The footage was suppressed while the raid was being carried out. Anxious relatives had kept a vigil at the airport in this seaside town as the blue-and-

white Boeing 747 sat immobile on the runway. From on board, furtive reports by mobile phone had told of blindfolded passengers' growing hunger, thirst and fear as the hours passed.

Earlier, the airline said its crew relayed word by a closed radio channel that the hijacker was an apparent member of the cult accused in the Tokyo subway attack, and that he demanded the release of jailed guru Shoko Asahara, jailed for murder in the Tokyo subway attack three months ago.

"I did it for Asahara!" the airline's managing director Yuzuru Matsumoto quoted the hijacker as saying, according to the plane's crew. News reports described him as a Japanese man in his 20s, clad in sneakers and jeans, wearing sunglasses.

The cult, through its Tokyo office, denied any responsibility for the hijacking.

Soldiers, military helicopters, fighter planes and chemical-weapons experts were put on alert almost immediately after the plane landed in Hakodate, 680 km. north of Tokyo.

In messages, the hijacker had warned officials against storming the plane, and demanded binoculars to monitor their movements. The hijacker refused to speak directly to police, communicating through some of the 15 crew members.

The hijacker claimed to have accomplices on the plane, and police and All Nippon Airways had said crew members had indicated there appeared to be more than one hijacker. But authorities said afterward he apparently acted alone.

All over Japan, television viewers were glued to their sets for the marathon hijack drama. Television went to nonstop live coverage, with split-screen images showing the plane on the tarmac and reporters delivering dispatches. In an inconspicuously small-town touch, TV announcers read long lists of the names of those aboard.

The passenger list included seven infants and more than 100 people over the age of 60, officials said. Authorities had said they were especially worried about them as the standoff dragged on.

Rabinovich: Military parley with Syria will determine talks' future

HILLEL KUTTLER
 WASHINGTON

NEXT week's meeting between the Israeli and Syrian chiefs of staff will help determine the future of negotiations between the two sides, Ambassador to the US Itamar Rabinovich said yesterday.

While "there will not be an agreement reached on security arrangements within these three days" of meetings between Gen. Haim Shihabi and Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, "what can happen in this meeting and what can, I think, be regarded as a criterion for its success is [that] patterns of working [together] should be established," Rabinovich, who heads Jerusalem's negotiations with Damascus, told a forum of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

"It's important that the two security establishments, represented by the top of the pyramid, will establish a good pattern of work between them personally and between the two respective establishments."

(Continued on Page 2)

PM rejects call to compensate Gaza

JOSE ROSENFELD

PRIME Minister Yitzhak Rabin yesterday rejected Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon's suggestion that Israel provide NIS 700 million in assistance to Gaza to make up for the negative economic impact of the closure.

Rabin said Israel has provided assistance, but the rest of the world also has an obligation.

"For many years the world lectured us on the Palestinian issue and now that we are dealing with it they cannot escape their responsibility," he said.

He noted that at the recent meeting of donor countries that was called to try to make up the Palestinian Authority's budget deficit for this year, the countries failed to cover half of it. Rabin took exception at the Arab countries, especially Saudi Arabia, for having failed to produce their portion of the funds.

Nevertheless, Rabin noted the situation in the Gaza Strip is improving. According to Norway's foreign minister who recently visited, one can already see the beginning of a recovery in Gaza.

Rabin, however, shared Ramon's concern for ensuring that the peace agreements

translate into economic benefits to the people. He pointed with frustration at the inability of the US Congress to get the legislation through to forgive \$300m. in loans to Jordan and \$100m. in military aid.

"Peace has opened enormous opportunities, even though we are limited today," said Rabin. He pointed out how the new reality has opened beyond our current economic ability to keep

up with it.

Rabin said he did not understand why Israel's trade deficit is growing, especially since it derives mostly from purchases from Europe, whose goods are very expensive due to the steep drop in the dollar. However, private consumption is jumping and people are still buying expensive European goods.

"With all the complaints, people have money," he said.

Israel - Canada
Free Trade
Agreement

See pages 10 and 11

'Hilbeh' lowers cholesterol, blood sugar

JUDY SEGEL

YEMENITE old wives' tales about the benefits of *hilbeh* (fenugreek) are true: Hebrew University researchers have found that a derivative of the condiment significantly reduces blood sugar and cholesterol levels.

Patents for the fenugreek applications have been obtained by the university's Yissum Research Development Company, which sold the rights to a Boston company named Odyssey that specializes in producing medications derived from plants.

In preliminary experiments, the team showed that a diet including ground-up fenugreek had a benefi-

cial effect on rats whose blood sugar and cholesterol levels had been artificially raised.

The HU team discovered a unique method for isolating various chemicals in the seeds. They then examined these components for their effect on absorbing sugars, triglycerides, and cholesterol in humans, in cooperation with the Boston company. They discovered that fenugreek contains a pure substance, dubbed FDG, which constitutes nearly a quarter of the seeds and absorbs sugars and fat molecules in the blood.

The researchers also found other benefits: it can be used as an emulsifier for cosmetic lotions for sensitive skin. The rights to produce this have been sold to a French company. There are also other ongoing investigations involving possible *hilbeh* oil and protein products that have also been shown to have desirable qualities.

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Woman petitions court to become pilot

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday heard a precedent-setting case on whether women should be allowed to become air force pilots, but will only give its decision at a later date.

Justices Eliahu Mazza and Dalia Dorner came out strongly in favor of removing the ban on women.

"Equality isn't a slogan - it's something we want to realize," Dorner said.

The opinions of Justices Ya'akov Kedmi and Tova Strasberg-Cohen, however, were unclear, while Zvi Tal appeared convinced by the state's arguments.

The court must decide soon for its decision to be of any use to petitioner Alice Miller, since the upper age limit for acceptance into flight school is 23-24.

Miller, 23, holds a civilian pilot's license from her native South Africa, and has just graduated from officer training school after finishing college on an academic deferment from the army. According to her petition, she is interested in being a civilian pilot some day, but in Israel, that is virtually impossible without having been in the air force first.

Miller herself refused to be interviewed, because she is currently serving in the IDF.

Attorney Netta Ziv Goldman of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel, which is representing Miller, argued that the air force's policy is discriminatory.

"The message sent to women is that they are not full partners in public life," she said. "But a society that puts equality at the top of its ladder of values must be willing to pay for it. [The government] has an obligation to make the principle of equality a reality."

Government attorney Uzi Fogelman argued in response that the ban on women is not arbitrary; it stems from a real distinction between the



Alice Miller (left), seeking to become an air force pilot, walks past her parents during yesterday's High Court of Justice hearing of a petition on whether women should be allowed to fill such positions. (Brian Heisler)

sexes in the law. As unmodified by various administrative orders, the law states that men must do reserve duty until age 54, whereas women are obligated only until age 38, or until they get pregnant. Though women pilots could be asked to commit to additional reserve duty, this commitment would be legally unenforceable.

"This difference is a relevant difference, and therefore, it is not discriminatory," Fogelman stated.

First, he noted, it means the army must make a very heavy investment in a woman pilot, with no guarantee of an appropriate length of service in return.

But even more important, he said, is that in the event of a war, the air force must know it can call up its entire reserves - not just that portion that does not have children.

"Army service is meant first and foremost to serve the needs of the

army... [not] social needs," Fogelman said.

However, Mazza and Dorner said the operational problem appeared small.

"Why can't the army say, 'I'll do an experiment?'" Mazza asked. "[The US] tried it in the Gulf War; women were pilots in World War II; and the results were very good."

"Women have been successful in all the [army] jobs they have been

asked to do," Fogelman responded.

"We don't need to check that... But other armies don't have reserve duty. The army is more of an occupation, and less of an existential need, like it is with us."

However, the two justices remained unconvinced.

"Concentrating the entire legal argument on the narrow question of the length of service and how to enforce a commitment seems very weak," Dorner said.

Arafat joins prisoners' hunger strike

JON IMMANUEL and LIAT COLLINS

THE Palestinian prisoners' hunger strike, now in its fourth day, was joined by the Palestinian Authority yesterday, which called for a day of fasting in solidarity with the 5,600 inmates.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat also fasted in solidarity with the prisoners, it was reported.

In Gaza, relatives of prisoners marched to the Norwegian representative's office in chains.

In the Knesset, MK Abdel-Wahab Darawshe (Arab Democratic Party) said it was "illogical" to keep more than 2,000 Fatah prisoners in jail, when Fatah, the leading PLO faction, was "now Israel's peace partner."

Police Minister Moshe Shahal countered that among the prisoners were killers of women and children and many who had committed attacks since the Oslo accords, and did not accept peace. Some 400 of the prisoners, fewer than 10%, are serving life sentences, the usual punishment for murder.

Shahal rejected a plea to free all Palestinian prisoners saying, "There's no logic in it... Have

we completely lost our senses?" Shahal was answering several motions to the agenda on the subject during which Hadash MK Hashem Mahameed and Darawshe (Democratic Arab Party) called for the prisoners' release.

Shahal asked rhetorically what he was meant to say to the mother of a child murdered by terrorists in Nahariya. "In what code was it written that they should murder innocent men, women and children?" he asked.

He said the government would not give in to the dictates of the hunger strikers and said that the 5,000 prisoners "freed as a gesture of good will after the Oslo accords" were chosen according to clear criteria.

The strike has, according to Palestinian sources, spread to include Tel Mond, where more than 20 women are held, and Beersheba.

The prisoners are demanding that their release be part of any second stage interim agreement reached by the target date of July 1 or in the coming weeks. Shahal said some prisoners were on partial strike, eating one meal a day.

Two killed in traffic accidents

TWO people were killed in car accidents yesterday.

Near Kfar Jedida, in the Western Galilee, Ahmed Mahadi, 52, of Kfar Yirka was killed and two others were injured when a van he was driving which was carrying a cow suddenly swerved into the opposing lane and hit a truck. One of his passengers was seriously hurt, while the truck driver was moderately injured.

North of Eilat, 53-year-old Yizhak Tamir was killed and his 20-year-old son was severely injured when their car hit the back of a truck while trying to pass. The dead man was the 14th killed in the past three months on the Arava Road.

NRP files no-confidence motion over security

LIAT COLLINS and Itim

THE National Religious Party filed a no-confidence motion yesterday, saying the government's policies are tantamount to abandoning security.

MK Yigal Bibi (NRP) noted Police Minister Moshe Shahal's comments that the IDF withdrawal from towns in Judea and Samaria would undermine security within the Green Line. The motion also mentions the politicization of the IDF.

The Likud yesterday blasted Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin over an Israel Radio report which said he had decided to postpone the withdrawal from Kalkiya and Tularm until after the national elections, fearing subsequent security incidents could affect the

Labor Party's chances. A Likud statement yesterday said the report "exposes the irresponsibility and power lust of the government which is prepared to build towns sheltering terrorists five minutes from Kfar Saba but wants to hide its intent and dangers from the public."

Meanwhile, Health Minister Ephraim Sneh told the Knesset yesterday that Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak will discuss only security arrangements with his Syrian counterpart at the Washington talks.

Sneh was answering a parliamentary query by Likud MK Uzi Landau, who demanded that Ra-

bin appoint a reserve lieutenant-general instead of Shahak to head the talks.

"Don't send Chief of Staff Amnon Shahak to do your dirty work for you. The talks with the Syrian chief of staff are politically very controversial, and you are putting the chief of staff and the IDF in an intolerable situation of conflict of interests," Landau said.

Sneh, responding in place of Rabin, said:

"Even according to [Landau's] view, surely the best thing to do is place the negotiations over security arrangements in the hands of the person who carries the responsibility towards the govern-

ment and people for the defense of the State of Israel."

"Your answer is ridiculous," Landau responded. "It's a plot by the government to drag the IDF into the political and diplomatic process - to sweeten the poisoned pill for the people of Israel."

Landau's remarks were echoed by former defense minister Moshe Arens, who told Israel Radio: "There is no doubt that the negotiations with Syria are the subject of a serious debate. The readiness to give up the Golan is a policy that is unacceptable to at least half of the Israeli public, and I have no doubt that we must refrain from involving senior IDF officers and the chief of staff in this debate."

SLA man killed in zone

NABATIYEH (AP) - Hizbullah guerrillas killed a South Lebanese Army soldier and wounded two others in separate attacks yesterday in the security zone.

Security sources said Hizbullah guerrillas set off two bomb explosions which targeted SLA soldiers in the zone. They also raked two SLA positions with machine gun and rocket fire, drawing retaliatory artillery fire from IDF forces. Reports said three Lebanese civilians were injured in the shelling.

Peace Watch: PA Police is violating accords

JON IMMANUEL

THE Palestinian Police breached the Oslo Accords in allowing armed militiamen to keep their guns at home instead of handing them in to police, according to Peace Watch, a private monitoring organization.

Peace Watch released a 21-page report yesterday based on its own and newspaper interviews to show that the police had collected only a small part of the arms and explosives located in the Gaza Strip.

The police also breached the Cairo Agreement by allowing some militant personalities to carry not only licensed pistols but also submachine guns which are not permitted by the accords.

There are, in effect, five militias in Gaza apart from the police, Peace Watch said.

The Palestinian Police and the militias have come to an understanding that in return for their non-violence inside the autonomous areas the police will not actively search for militia weapons in private homes.

Agreement reached on Palestinian TV

ISRAEL and the Palestinian Authority yesterday reached agreement in Cairo providing the Palestinian Broadcasting Service with transmission stations in Jericho, Nablus, Ramallah, Jericho and Hebron that will enable it to provide TV broadcasts to Palestinian population centers beyond Gaza.

Communications Ministry Director-General Shlomo Wachs said the agreement was signed at midnight. The agreement provides for a TV broadcasting station in Ramallah.

The Palestinians also signed a six-month contract with Bezeq, hoping to establish their own telephone system next year. They agreed to pay off NIS 4 million in debts to Bezeq.

Jon Immanuel

Liba'i closes 'inhuman' ministry office in eastern Jerusalem

JON IMMANUEL

INTERIOR Minister David Liba'i yesterday described as "inhuman and unacceptable" the standard of the services provided to Jerusalem's Arab residents at the ministry's Nablus Road office, and ordered it closed until Sunday for reorganization.

Liba'i visited the office near Damascus Gate and witnessed a line of men, women and children standing in a narrow space squeezed behind barriers and guarded by armed Border Police.

Some had been standing there since dawn.

"Services by the State of Israel cannot be given in these conditions. The conditions are inhuman. It is not acceptable to bring people to these lines, in this heat, with this pressure to receive services that are due to them," Liba'i said.

By Sunday, Interior Ministry officials are expected to come up with a solution, probably a second office to lessen the pressure.

The Al-Quds Jerusalem daily newspaper ran a picture three days ago of a young girl sleeping on the sidewalk between the police barriers, after her mother entered the office following a 15-hour wait.

Farah Taras had come for the third day running hoping to enter the office when the line got shorter.

But each time it got short enough for him to stand in the line the office closed.

"I am asking for a right which I should have had years ago, at least as long as I pay heavy taxes without services," he said.

"They are treating the people like animals. It is the responsibility of the government to find a suitable building or create one with air-conditioning. They are only collecting taxes for no service at all," said Taras.

Bill extending US-PLO dealings goes to House

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

A BILL to extend US dealings with the PLO will be presented to the House of Representatives today, according to Congressional sources.

The chief sponsors of the bill are Congressmen Eliot Engel (D-NY) and James Saxton (R-NJ), who chair the House's informal Peace Accord Monitoring Group, which evaluates the PLO's compliance with the Oslo accord.

The Engel bill is considered a more moderate version of legisla-

tion introduced in the Senate last week by New York Republican Alfonse D'Amato that would tighten conditions for the Palestinian Authority to receive US assistance.

Both houses must decide this summer whether to extend waivers of laws that forbade US-PLO contact.

Those laws are to expire June 30, but Congress is expected to issue a temporary extension in the coming days until the waivers are voted on.

TALKS

(Continued from Page 1)
"Secondly, we should begin to do some actual work towards closing the gaps... It would be realistic to see some beginning of movement. If we detect that, I think it could be defined as a successful meeting."

Should the chiefs of staff meeting, as well as a follow-up session in mid-July between other security experts, prove successful, Israel and Syria "should then go back" to discussing the other elements of a peace treaty.

Meanwhile, Rabinovich denied that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin

was breaking new ground when he was reported to have referred to a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Following a recent interview with Rabin, Washington Post columnist Lally Weymouth yesterday paraphrased Rabin as saying he planned on a three-year test period following an initial withdrawal on the Golan prior to a complete withdrawal.

Rabinovich asserted that Rabin meant that following an initial withdrawal, Israel would eventually withdraw to an agreed-on line.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman drowns off Dor Beach

A Kitzur woman drowned yesterday afternoon off Dor Beach, near Hadera. The woman, a 69-year-old immigrant from the CIS, was with a group taking a day trip.

Medics dispatched from Hadera tried to revive her, but she was declared dead at the scene. Two other immigrants have drowned this week.

Itim

16 year old found dead at home

A police pathologist was still trying to determine last night the circumstances of the death of a 16-year-old girl whose body was found yesterday by her brother in the family's Ramat Gan home. The girl was found with a plastic restraint around her neck, but late last night police could still not say whether she had committed suicide or whether foul play was involved.

Raine Marcus

Liba'i will name panel to run Bnei Brak

Acting Interior Minister David Liba'i said yesterday that by the weekend he would finish appointing the committee that is to replace the members of the Bnei Brak City Council.

Meanwhile, Bnei Brak Municipality workers resumed a general strike yesterday, after some sanitation workers went back to work over the weekend. They have not yet received their April-May salaries.

Jerusalem Post Staff

Class action sought against Hevra Kadisha

A Herzliya widow, Eva Pilut, yesterday asked the Tel Aviv District Court to recognize her suit against the Hevra Kadisha as a NIS 10 million class action suit. She says the burial society has been forcing her to pay monthly rent for a burial plot she reserved beside her husband, who died a few months ago.

Pilut noted that the Israel Lands Administration had determined it illegal for the society to charge for reserving plots.

She said she was also forced to pay NIS 5,000 for the initial reservation, and was told if she did not pay another person would be buried there soon. She is suing for the stress and aggravation the burial society caused her and others.

Itim

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ROSENZWEIG CHAIR IN LAW

with the participation of

Mrs. Frieda Rosenzweig of Chicago

on Thursday, June 22

July 15/95

Almost no TA schools include Ethiopian children

BATSHEVA TSUR

THERE are virtually no Ethiopian children studying in Tel Aviv, Deputy Education Minister Micha Goldman told a joint meeting of the Knesset, Absorption, Education, Welfare, and Economics committees yesterday.

The meeting, attended by Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban and intended to discuss the plight of Ethiopian Jewry, broke into ironic laughter as Goldman explained this is because members of the Ethiopian community cannot afford apartments in Tel Aviv and it is impossible to bus children there "because of the traffic jams at the entrance to the city."

After Tzaban outlined the achievements of the past two years with regard to housing and education, representatives of the community found fit to thank the government for taking assertive action with regard to the Ethiopian immigrants.

But they pointed out that the real test would be social integration. "There are still schools in the State Religious system with a 70 percent Ethiopian population," Addisu Messala, head of the Unified Ethiopian Immigrants' Association, said. "Our community wants to be absorbed with respect."

But another leader, Uri Tamyat, charged the authorities with "patting themselves on the back... Have you noticed that there are 600 drop-outs?" he asked. "And what about the problem of employment for Ethiopian women?"

This led to a heated exchange by various Ethiopian community leaders across the meeting hall, proving their excellent absorption into Israeli society.

Goldman said the ministry's policy is to send fewer children to Youth Aliya boarding schools since the home environment is important. Grabbing the microphone, Youth Aliya director Eli Amir defended the institutions, joined by MK Shmuel Yishai (NRP).



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin greets Alan B. Slifka (left), president of the Abraham Fund, as former president Yitzhak Navon, chairman of the fund's Israel board looks on. The three discussed the fund's activities in Israel, including the awarding of \$758,000 to 64 programs and institutions which promote Jewish-Arab co-existence. Speakers at the award ceremony included Education Minister Amon Rubinstein and Islamic High Court of Appeals President Qadi Ahmad Natur. (Isaac Harari)

Law protects shelter for disabled

LIAT COLLINS

RESIDENTS of buildings in which sheltered housing is established for the physically or mentally disabled will not be able to evict them, according to a law which passed second and third reading yesterday.

The law was drafted by MK Yitzhak Levy (National Religious Party), who called it of "utmost social and moral significance."

Levy said many helpless people have been thrown out of their homes because neighbors who objected to their presence took them to court.

"They are also people; they have feelings and emotions. They are also citizens and they can deal with daily life - on condition that we help them, extend an understanding and caring hand and know how to house them and integrate them in the community," Levy said.

Supreme Court: Civil courts may rule on paternity suits

EVELYN GORDON

THE civil courts have the right to decide a paternity suit if a religious court refuses to rule on the issue, the Supreme Court said in a unanimous ruling by seven justices yesterday.

The case involved a Moslem woman, Hamada Amash, who bore a child out of wedlock. She claimed the father was Yunis Juvran, who is married to somebody else and has eight children. Juvran denied paternity.

Amash therefore asked an Islamic court to declare Juvran the father and force him to pay child support, but the Islamic court said it did not recognize fatherhood outside of marriage, and dismissed her suit.

Amash then filed suit in the Haifa District Court, but this court said it had no authority to hear the case, because questions

of personal status are the exclusive domain of the religious courts. Amash then appealed this decision to the Supreme Court.

In her appeal, Amash argued that the Islamic courts cannot claim exclusive authority over an area of law, such as paternity suits, whose very existence they

do not recognize. Similarly, if they do not recognize fatherhood except in the context of marriage, they cannot claim authority in a suit for child support by an unmarried woman, she argued.

Justices Meir Shamgar, Aharon Barak, Shlomo Levine, Dov Levine, Theodor Orr, Mishael Cheshin and Zvi Tal agreed with the appellant.

Fatherhood is not just a religious issue, Cheshin noted in the verdict; it also has many implications for civil law.

Therefore, there is an interest in having the question resolved - and if the religious courts refuse to do so, then the civil courts must exercise their residual authority to hear all cases not expressly delegated to another court system.

Police hunt missing pal of murdered teen

RAINE MARCUS

CENTRAL District police are still hunting for missing teenager Maxim Agronov, who was last seen 10 days ago with Amit Molcho, 16, whose body was found in an orange grove only 300 meters from his Rehovot home on Tuesday.

Scores of policemen, Civil Guard volunteers, and high school students joined the search for Agronov, 18. Police believe he is still alive, but emphasized that at this stage he not a suspect in the murder of Molcho. A pathologist determined that Molcho died of stab wounds shortly after disappearing last Sunday.

Hundreds of people attended Molcho's funeral yesterday in Rehovot.

Molcho's schoolmates said they were surprised at the friendship between the victim and Agronov, who had run away from home and dropped out of school.

Agronov lived in an abandoned stone building not far from where Molcho's body was found.

"Amit would bring him food and drink from home," said classmate Nimrod Regev. "We wondered what he was doing with [him]. I can only guess they had the same taste in music."

Molcho's family has criticized the way police handled the case, saying they did not treat the complaint of his disappearance seriously.

"We passed on information to police," said family friend Yitzhak Dikovsky. "We conducted the investigation - and went to look for him in Eilat and Tiberias. The police made us feel like we were nuisances. And look what happened - Amit was found right next to his home."

"As soon as we received the complaint we treated the teenagers' disappearance very seriously," said Coastal Plain police chief Dep.-Cmdr. Rahamim Dory. "We mounted search parties and acted on intelligence information. Police first of all look

in places where we think they may be, based on information and reported sightings."

Police, he said, hunted for the pair in Tel Aviv and Eilat, as well as organizing searches in the rural areas surrounding Rehovot. One search was conducted in the orange grove where Molcho was found, but since the body was hidden among tall bushes, police failed to see it. Eventually it was discovered by an Arab tracker.

Molcho, he added was "normal, innocent teenager with no criminal background." Agronov, although considered a problem teen, had no criminal record.

He said police had not entirely ruled out nationalistic motives, but were more inclined to believe that Molcho was murdered for criminal motives, based on evidence found near the body. "At the moment we are searching for Maxim, who was last seen with Amit at a bonfire near the orange grove where the body was found, in the hope he can shed light on the case," said Dory.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Psychologist held for license plate switch

A Beersheba psychologist was arrested yesterday on forgery and fraud charges, after he allegedly changed the license plates on his car to claim it as stolen. An alert Arad policeman noticed the man's Subarn Legacy had 1985 plates, a year in which that model had not yet been produced. The psychologist, 41, denied the charges, saying he had changed the license plates to play a trick on his wife. Amir Rozenblit

Court asked to order trial of Netivot mayor

MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) yesterday asked the High Court of Justice to order Netivot Mayor Yehiel Zohar tried for bribery and fraudulent use of funds. Though the police recommended that Zohar be indicted, the State Attorney's Office has sat on the file for the past four years without making a decision, Cohen said. The Interior Ministry forcibly removed Zohar from his mayoralty in 1991 due to his gross mismanagement, but he was re-elected in 1993, the petition noted. Evelyn Gordon

Winning cards

In yesterday's Chance draw, the lucky cards were: nine of spades, nine of hearts, eight of diamonds, and queen of clubs.

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IMPORTANT

ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING CHANGES OF CONCERT DATES FOR VERDI'S REQUIEM

As a result of Maestro Riccardo Muti's sudden notice of cancellation, the IPO has rescheduled performances of this work under the baton of Maestro Zubin Mehta on the following new dates:

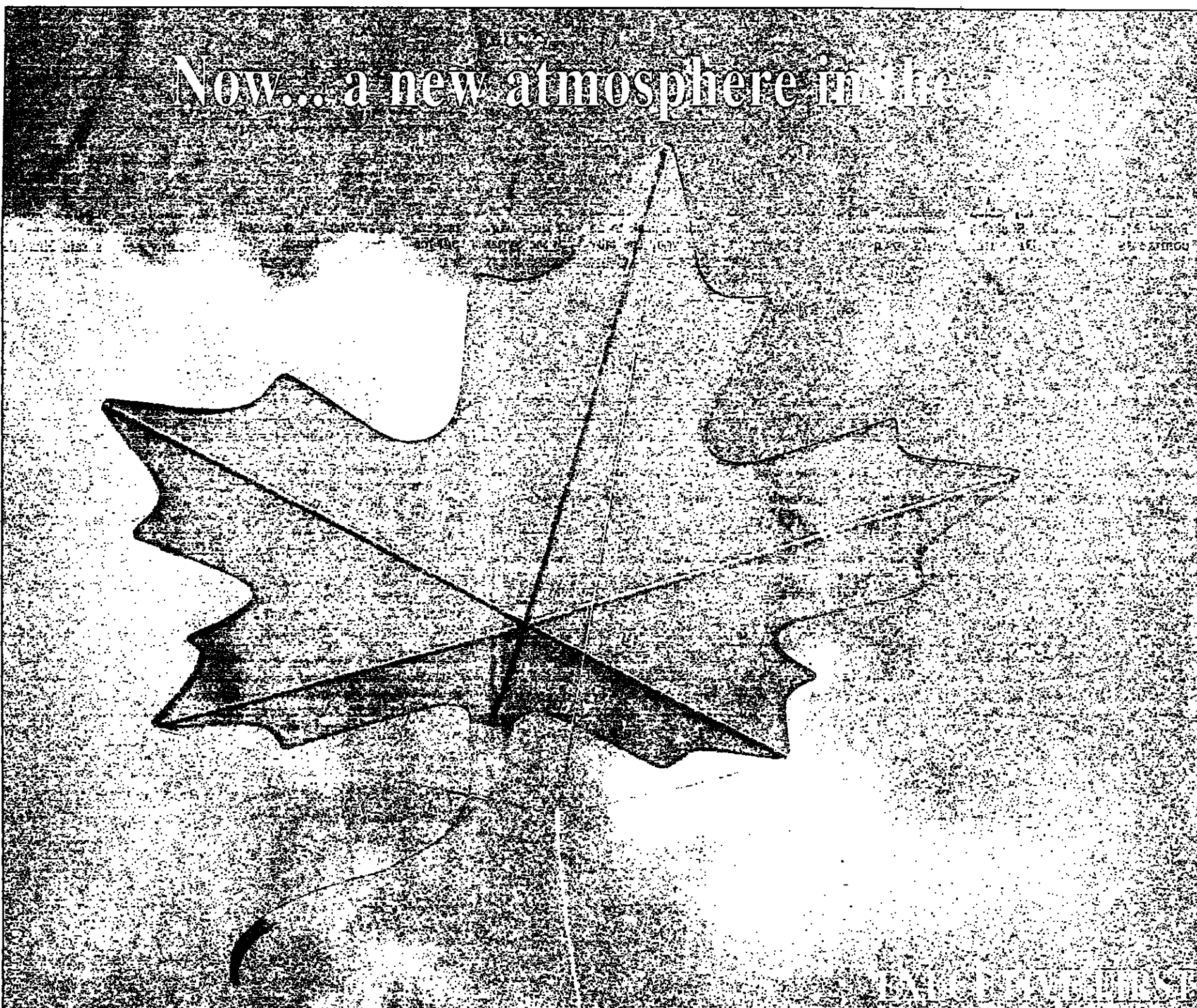
Jerusalem: Sunday, July 9th at 8:30 p.m. (instead of June 27)
Series A Tel-Aviv: Monday, July 10th at 8:30 p.m. (instead of June 26)
Series B Tel-Aviv: Tuesday, July 11th at 8:30 p.m. (instead of June 28)
Series C Tel-Aviv: Wednesday, July 12th at 8:30 p.m. (instead of June 29)

Our sincere apologies to our family of subscribers and concert goers.

A-CAPPELLA CONCERT WITH THE PRAGUE PHILHARMONIC CHOIR
Scheduled for June 30, 1995

is cancelled

Ticket buyers are requested to contact our box office for reimbursement



Today the inaugural flight of Air Canada will take off on the new non-stop Tel Aviv-Toronto route. It's not just another route but a whole new attitude of flying to Canada and North America. Air Canada invites you to discover that a 12 hour flight can be a pleasurable and refreshing experience. Our Executive First section, for example, offers First Class comfort at Business Class prices. Here you'll find a special electronically controlled reclining seat that lets you refresh with quality sleep. Or you can relax or work with a private 6 channel video and private phone. At Air Canada we do things a little different...so that your flight will be very different. Twice-a-week on a wide-body Boeing B767-300. Air Canada...now there will be a new atmosphere in the air. Details at your travel agent or at Air Canada 03-5273781.



AIR CANADA
A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

Shell falls victim to Green power

BONN (AP) - The defeat of Shell's attempt to sink the Brent Spar oil platform in the North Sea shows that the environmental movement in Europe's most powerful country is a lobby that industry ignores at its own risk.

Thanks to powerful anti-pollution sentiments stirred by the growing German Greens party, Greenpeace's campaign in the North Sea was able to mobilize German consumers in a boycott that led Shell to reverse its decision.

Outrage over the planned sinking of the 150-meter-high, 65,000-ton platform led German politicians of all stripes to condemn Shell. Chancellor Helmut Kohl intervened with John Major, Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel called yesterday for a ban on all waste-dumping in the North Sea.

A weeklong boycott of the 1,728 Shell stations in Germany cut their income by about 30 percent, said Peter Duncan, director of German Shell in Hamburg. He wouldn't specify their losses, reportedly in the millions.

Shell station owners reported 50 cases of vandalism, including a firebombing, a gunfire attack, and a letter bomb, Duncan said. Smaller boycotts hit Shell in the Netherlands and Britain.

"Germans seem to be more environmentally conscious than Britons, and we had to pay the price," said Karl-Heinz Herz, a Shell station owner in Rostock who said he had to lay off two employees during the boycott.

The idea of stopping Brent Spar's sinking originated in Greenpeace's Hamburg office. Ships and logistics for the kamikaze landing of activists aboard the platform were provided by Greenpeace Germany.

The German Greens, who have become Germany's third party in the past year, also claimed bragging rights.

"You can't underestimate our role," said Hartwig Lohmeyer, a spokesman for the Greens in Duesseldorf. "We built up the grassroots."

Germany takes pride in its bans on dumping in the North Sea and in waterways, part of a complex of anti-pollution and recycling regulations. Conservatives joined the campaign against dumping Brent Spar because it offended their sense of thrift.

"It's a German thing - we don't like to throw things away," said Thilo Bode, 48-year-old director of Greenpeace Germany, the environmentalist group's biggest branch. Bode recently was named director of Greenpeace International.



Residents of Budyonovsk greet the last hostages released by Chechen rebel gunmen yesterday. The hostages, all volunteers, accompanied the rebels from a hospital they had seized earlier this week as a guarantee of the rebels' safety during their return to Chechnya.

Russia to Chechens: Hand over gunman

GROZNY (AP) - Russian negotiators threatened yesterday to suspend a cease-fire in Chechnya unless the Chechen delegation at peace talks agrees to turn over rebel commander Shamil Basayev within three days.

In Moscow, meanwhile, parliament denounced President Boris Yeltsin's government yesterday over its handling of the hostage crisis. Lawmakers applauded as the no-confidence motion passed 241-72, with 20 abstaining.

The Russians demanded the concession from Chechen negotiators by the end of yesterday. The Russian side also called on the Chechens to denounce terrorism.

"If this does not take place by 18:00, the Russian government reserves the right to end the moratorium on combat operations in Chechnya," Col.-Gen. Anatoly Kulikov told reporters.

The peace talks and the moratorium on combat in Chechnya had been ordered after negotiations between Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Basayev, whose gunmen had raided the city of Budyonovsk and held some 2,000 hostages in a hospital.

After the government unsuccessfully

stormed the hospital, Basayev and his terrorists were allowed to return to Chechnya, where they released their last hostages and fled into the hills Tuesday night. The Kremlin launched a manhunt for them.

The hostage crisis left scores of civilians dead and wounded, and publicly humiliated the government. Although the vote was non-binding and has no formal impact on Yeltsin's government, the vote added to its embarrassment.

Lawmakers blasted Yeltsin's decision to storm the hospital where hundreds of hostages were held and the concessions Chernomyrdin made to free the captives.

The last of the hostages returned home to Budyonovsk in southern Russia yesterday. Several thousand people stood on a central square in a heavy rain to greet them and flags flew at half-staff.

"I am happy - I am home," said hostage Yuri Marucharin. "We doubted we would stay alive, but we hoped."

The terrorists began their siege of Budyonovsk by demanding an end to the war in Chechnya. The peace talks were one of their main conditions for freeing the hostages.

As the talks - and the three-day cease-fire - began in the battered Chechen capital, Grozny, Russian negotiator Arkady Volsky said peace wouldn't come easily after six months of war.

"I'm a realist - this will take time," he said.

ITAR-Tass said the Chechen delegation included Shirvani Basayev, brother of Shamil Basayev. It said Shamil Basayev was following the talks from an undisclosed hideout in the mountains and had met with Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev late Tuesday.

"If Basayev is found and offers any resistance, he will be destroyed, like any other bandit," Igor Mezhabov, deputy head of the Federal Security Service, told Interfax yesterday.

Villagers lining the roads in Chechnya greeted Basayev as a hero when he returned Tuesday night in a convoy of buses from Budyonovsk.

Shouting "Allah Akbar! (God is Great)," they held up their children to catch a glimpse of the convoy, which included a refrigerator truck bearing the bodies of rebels killed in Budyonovsk.

China will limit access to int'l computer networks

BEIJING (AP) - China will tightly restrict access to international computer networks and keep foreign firms from offering information services, a government minister said yesterday.

China has developed its telecommunications industry at breakneck pace in the past 15 years.

Wu Jichuan, minister of posts and telecommunications, boasted at a news conference that the industry he manages has grown by over 45 percent annually during the 1990s.

Telephones, a rarity a decade ago, now reach more than a quarter of households in some larger coastal cities, Wu said.

The ministry has helped set up data networks for financial, scientific and educational institutions and in April began offering limited access to the Internet, the global web of computer networks.

But China will not be an interchange for the free flow of information.

"By linking with the Internet, we do not mean the absolute freedom of information," Wu said.

Although he did not give specifics, Wu likened the ministry's task of monitoring the data networks to customs officers checking passports at international borders. Information allowed in will mostly be business-oriented, he said.

China's ruling Communist Party has felt threatened by information and technology since it came to power in 1949. Listening to foreign broadcasts was for long a crime, and jamming of transmissions still continues.

During the military's violent quelling of pro-democracy demonstrations in 1989, the government blocked transmissions of US-based CNN. Still Chinese here and abroad communicated details of the crackdown via computer, facsimile and phone.

China's top academic and research institutions have computer networks, and the number of personal computers is estimated to be around 2 million.

The growth of China's telecommunications network has been greatly aided by foreign capital. Wu estimated that by the end of last year his ministry had used \$6 billion in credits and loans from foreign governments, commercial banks and the World Bank.

Foreign companies have also started ventures that have built switching, digital and fiber-optic technology used to modernize China's communications systems. Those aside, the prohibition on foreigners providing information remains, Wu said.

UN blocks NATO strike at Serb airfield

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - The United Nations refused to let NATO bomb a Bosnian Serb airfield after two Serb jets violated the no-fly zone in northern Bosnia, UN sources said yesterday.

The European Union's new mediator Carl Bildt, on his first mission to ex-Yugoslavia, expressed caution over hopes for peace but predicted UN troops would not pull out of Bosnia.

Bosnian Croats who are helping the Muslim-led Bosnian government army in its offensive to ease the Serb siege of Sarajevo said the attacks had paused after heavy casualties but would continue.

A spokesman at NATO headquarters in Naples, Italy, Captain Jim Mitchell told Reuters radar had detected two planes violating the no-fly zone near Banja Luka airfield.

United Nations commander General Bernard Janvier blocked the air strikes proposed by NATO chiefs to punish the infringement, UN sources said.

A UN Security Council resolution bans flights by any warring party over Bosnia and the no-fly zone has been patrolled by NATO warplanes since 1993.

Banja Luka airfield is well protected by Serb missile systems and Janvier may have shied from using the force necessary to confront them, UN sources said.

The missiles brought down a US F-16 jet last month. The pilot spent a week on the run before being rescued.

The relationship between UN and NATO commanders has often been strained, with alliance leaders complaining their UN colleagues prefer to accommodate the Serbs rather than confront them.

Any air strikes now would run counter to current UN policy, which is to scale down the mission to no more than deliver-

ing aid and to bolster fresh diplomatic efforts to end the war by avoiding actions that raise tension.

Clearly the UN is eager to avoid any repetition of the recent hostage-taking that followed air strikes against Bosnian Serb targets. The last UN hostages have only just been released after three weeks in Serb captivity.

European leaders have pinned their hopes on progress towards peace on former Swedish premier Bildt. The EU envoy, who has met Bosnian government and Croat officials, arrived in Belgrade for talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

He said his first visit to ex-Yugoslavia was exploratory and held out little hope of swift progress.

But he did not force a withdrawal of UN troops from Bosnia, calling this a "nightmare scenario" that would undermine all peace efforts in the Balkans.

Prospects for peace have long stalled over the refusal of separatist Serbs in Bosnia to accept last year's Contact Group peace plan, which would divide Bosnia between them and a federation of Muslims and Croats.

Political sources in the Bosnian Serb "capital" of Pale said that although they were tiring of international isolation, short of supplies and facing fierce Muslim attacks their opposition to the Contact Group plan remained firm.

They vowed with characteristic defiance to fight on against the Muslim-led government army until the international community agreed to recognize them as an independent state.

"We will respond to any offensive in kind and demonstrate the futility of their efforts," said a local official of recent fierce government assaults on Serb siege lines.

Simpson prosecution to finish case this month

LOS ANGELES (AP) - In a last-minute strategy shift, prosecutors yesterday dropped their bid to present more evidence of domestic violence in O.J. Simpson's marriage and revealed plans to end their case this month.

Deputy District Attorney Christopher Darden confirmed outside court that the Simpson prosecution had withdrawn its request to present at least two new witnesses and had canceled the testimony of two others.

The prosecution will also skip telling the jury that DNA analysis of blood on a pair of socks and a back gate at the crime scene found no trace of EDTA, a preservative used in blood sample tubes, he said.

The defense has suggested that police could have planted blood taken from the former football star, a theory that could be supported by the presence of EDTA. Darden said the decision was motivated by a desire to get the case to the jury.

"We're ready to rest with a mountain of evidence against this guy," he said.

Prosecutors still plan to present a statistical expert and hair and fiber evidence.

Darden initially said the prosecution planned to conclude by the first week of July, but district attorney's spokeswoman Suzanne Childs later told reporters it would wrap up by the end of next week.

"In reviewing the People's case, the evidence is so powerful, they feel they want to get the case

to the jury as soon as possible," Childs said.

In addition to dropping four potential domestic violence witnesses - two housewife drivers, a baby sister and a personal trainer - the prosecution also canceled the anticipated appearance of Keith Zimowski.

Zimowski, a former boyfriend of Nicole Brown Simpson, testified before a grand jury that Simpson stalked his ex-wife and once spied on the couple having sex on her couch.

Earlier this year, prosecutors won approval to call several witnesses to testify about alleged domestic violence in the Simpsons' relationship. A few witnesses, including Ms. Simpson's sister, were called at the start of the case, and prosecutors initially indicated they planned to end their case with more such testimony.

It is possible, however, that the prosecution could raise domestic violence again during rebuttal of the defense case.

The prosecution introduced new blood test results from a state DNA lab that concluded that blood drops found in Simpson's Ford Bronco, on a sock from his bedroom and the rear gate of Ms. Simpson's condominium were consistent with Simpson.

An employee of the upscale Bloomingdale's department store said he sold shoes to Simpson but could not remember selling the type of unusual Italian shoe that left bloody prints at the scene where Ms. Simpson-Ronald Goldman were slain.

Rome's first mosque opens

ROME (Reuters) - Rome's first mosque opened to the sound of a 10-year-old boy singing verses from the Koran yesterday as Pope John Paul II and Italy's president forcefully demanded equal rights for Christians in Muslim states.

The mosque, one of the largest outside the Islamic world, and the adjacent Islamic Cultural Centre, were opened by Prince Salman Ben Abdul Aziz Al Saud, brother of Saudi King Fahd, and Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro.

East met West at the colorful ceremony attended by bishops, Muslims and diplomats as boy soprano Ahmed Gaber, an Egyptian living in Rome, sang verses praising Allah in the center's modern conference hall. Minutes before the ceremony the Pope, speaking at his general audience at the Vatican, renewed demands that Christians in Muslim states should have the same rights of worship which Muslims have in the West.

Christian places of public worship are banned outright in Saudi Arabia, where the Vatican says there are some 500,000 Christians, most of them foreigners.

Saudi officials say churches cannot be built because the Koran says Islam should be the only religion in Arabia and allow Christians only to worship privately in homes and embassies.

The Pope said that while the new mosque was an "eloquent sign" of religious freedom in Rome, "in some Islamic countries similar signs of recognition of religious freedom are lacking."

In recent years, Islam has become the second-largest religion in Catholic Italy, with at least 650,000 believers.

"While I am pleased that Muslims can come together in prayer in the new mosque in Rome, I strongly hope that the right of Christians and all believers freely to express their own faith will be recognised in every corner of the earth," the Pope said.

Scalfaro, a devout Catholic and friend of the Pope, was even more forthright, although he did not name any country.

With Prince al Saud sitting in front of him, Scalfaro said he was happy followers of Islam now had a place to pray "in this Rome of Catholics and Popes".

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The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund has been healing broken hearts for 46 years, not just on Hanukkah, but all year round. The Fund distributes toys, clothing, shoes, school supplies, medical care and equipment, and more, to needy children throughout Israel.

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Cool idea from Hungary: Cherry soup

OFF THE SHELF
MARTHA MESELS

MOST Hungarian dishes are too heavy for the summer here. An exception is cold cherry soup.

It's possible to make the real thing here now, thanks to the import of frozen "Meggy" from Hungary. Pronounced as a one-syllable word, roughly "medye," this is the term for the sour cherries essential for this dish.

The product is being imported by Sunfrost under the Goldsun label with the original Hungarian on the box. The English is hidden under the Hebrew sticker.

You can also eat these cherries plain, or use them in fruit punch or cakes. They defrost quickly, either in a bowl or under running water. Just remember that they contain pits.

For the recipe for "Meggy-leves" (cherry soup), I consulted the Hebrew cookbook *Paprika* by Yosef (Tommy) Lapid and Ruth Sirkis. First published in 1986, by R. Sirkis Publishers, it is kosher and available at most bookstores for NIS 64. It has not been translated.

The 350 grams of cherries in the Goldsun package are enough for half a recipe (about three to four portions). I followed the directions given for use with fresh sour cherries, though this can also be made from canned sour cherries.

For a half-recipe, you take an enamel or stainless steel pot and put in the following: two cups of water, the entire package of frozen cherries, half a cup of sugar, half a teaspoon of cinnamon, half a tablespoon of fresh lemon juice and a slice of lemon.

Cook on a low flame for five to seven minutes. Meanwhile, take a half cup of sweet cream (cream for whipping) and mix some of it with a tablespoon of flour into a smooth mixture. Then add the rest of the cream.

Pour it slowly into the soup and cook for an additional three to five minutes, until it thickens slightly. Add a pinch of grated lemon peel. Taste and add sugar if you wish.

Refrigerate and serve very cold. You can serve it with sour cream on the side, which makes it a bit thicker and richer. Watch for the pits as you eat, or remove them before cooking.

My Budapest-born husband pronounced it delicious.

A package of Meggy retails for NIS 9.95 at chain stores and mini-markets. This is not bad at all considering the high price of local fresh cherries, which are far too sweet for this recipe.

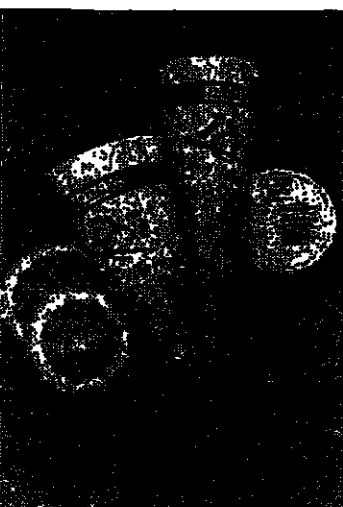
FROZEN champignons from Holland are another new Sunfrost import, under the trade name Champi Gold.

Used in cooking, they are almost indistinguishable from fresh champignons and are useful to keep on hand in the freezer. A 400-gram bag of pieces and stems sells for NIS 9.88. I was skeptical that they could really be "cooked or fried from frozen," as the instructions say. But I did sautee the frozen pieces in margarine, allowing the excess water to evaporate. Then I made a very satisfactory omelette.

It is hard to compare the price with fresh champignons, because the frozen contains so much water.

ONE OF MY favorite new products this summer is a Whitman packaged ice-cream cone which reminds me of lemon meringue pie.

Called "Yogi," it contains plain frozen yogurt, rippled with a bright yellow goosy syrup, rather like lemon-pie filling. It's refreshing because it's tart as well as sweet. Labeling is in Hebrew only, but the cone-shaped product pictures a lemon slice on the wrapper. The price is NIS 3.30,



(clockwise from top): Snappies plastic wrap can be used in the microwave; La-Cat offers economy-sized bags of dry food for your feline; Tele-Sal, Super-Sol's phone shopping service, now has a catalog; Whitman's "Yogi" ice-cream cone tastes like lemon pie.

the weight is 90 grams and it contains about 200 calories.

"GLI'DIET" - Tenne Noga's new diet ice-cream bar - has no sugar, no fat, no cholesterol and almost no calories. This sounds almost too good to believe. It is. Nominally, it is vanilla flavored, but mainly it is cloyingly sweet.

The sweetness comes from lactitol, glycerol and aspartame. The consistency is not really that of ice cream, but more like a frozen pudding.

There are only 40 calories in this 50-gram bar. I would prefer to use the calories elsewhere. This noncoated, white ice cream on a stick sells for NIS 1.

Labeling is Hebrew only, except the term NutraSweet, which is the trade name of aspartame.

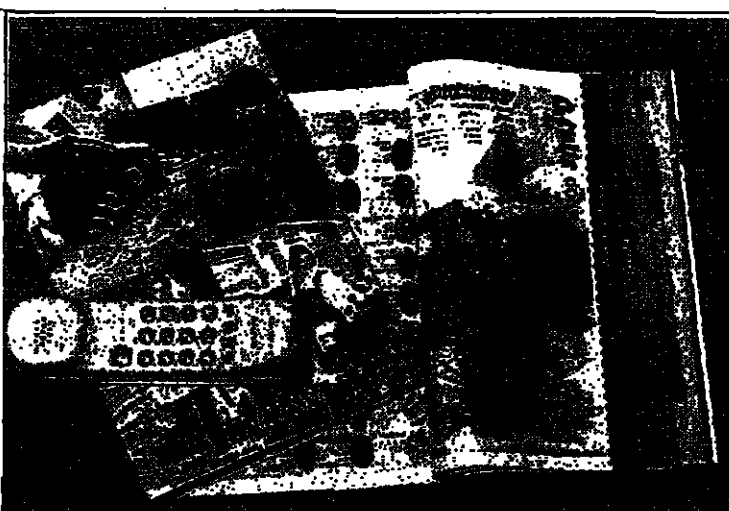
FANTASIA, STRAUSS'S fancy ice-cream roll with a ruffled look, now comes in strawberry/vanilla flavor.

It's very pretty in pink and white. I think it looks better than it tastes, but some members of my household prefer it to the earlier Fantasia flavors, chocolate/vanilla and chocolate/hazelnut.

Like its predecessors, pink Fantasia sells for NIS 1.50 for a 900 ml. roll in a firm, protective carton.

JUICY LUCY, Schnitzelucy and Burgerlucy are ready-to-microwave frozen sandwiches on buns from Hod Lavan's Miss Lucy line.

They are individually wrapped and seem tailor-made for latchkey kids. The labels, including instructions, are all in Hebrew. The product should be microwaved for about two minutes without defrosting or opening the package, then left in the wrapper for another minute before opening.



Juicy Lucy is a hot dog; the other names are self-explanatory. Each sandwich sells for a tolerable NIS 4.50 to NIS 5.

The products are under the kashrut supervision of Kfar Har-eh's Rabbi A.S. Weiss.

TIV TIRAT TZVI, the local pioneer in such microwavable sandwiches, has just added a chicken schnitzel on a bun to its line called Super Sandwich.

Super Sandwiches for the microwave come two to a package. The schnitzels have a recommended retail price of NIS 12.80. The other choices, at varying prices, are hot dog, hamburger, turkey and roast beef.

Tiv Tirat Tzvi's frozen sandwiches are vitamin enriched, with 25 percent of the Recommended Daily Allowances. Labeling is in

Hebrew and English, and the kashrut supervision is by Rabbi David Werer of Hadera.

MICRO PAPER by Alcan looks like ordinary waxed paper, but is specially designed wrapping paper for use in microwave ovens. It is British made, labeled in English and Hebrew.

It has a silicone coating rather than wax, which can melt or stick to foods. It withstands oven temperatures of up to 230°C, so it's suitable for combination microwave/baking ovens.

It is used to loosely cover solid and liquid foods for cooking or reheating, and to wrap foods that are microwave-cooked in parcels, such as corn-on-the-cob.

The paper is narrow so as not to interfere with turntable motion. A 10-meter-long roll sells here for NIS 7.40. It has kashrut

approval from the Manchester Beit Din.

A companion product from Alcan is a thicker-than-usual plastic cling wrap, also for microwave use. Called Snappies, it is less likely to get tangled on the roll than some of the thinner film wraps. It can be used to cover foods straight from freezer to microwave.

A 10-meter roll, standard width, retails for NIS 7.40, same as the Micro Paper, and it has the same kashrut approval. This is about 50 percent costlier than most plastic food wraps on the market.

The importer, Invest Impex, claims both Alcan products are worth the price because they were designed specifically for microwave use, whereas most food wraps were not.

THE NEWLY released catalog from Tele-Sal - Super-Sol's phone shopping service - is a couch potato's dream. Almost every item appears with a clear color photograph of the actual product, so you get a feeling of browsing the shelves.

The pictures will assist shoppers who do not read Hebrew easily.

The basic ordering instructions, the index and the section headings are in English too, but most of the individual product descriptions are in Hebrew only.

A spokeswoman for Tele-Sal claims a truly bilingual catalog would be too bulky. She says the book was "market tested on Anglo-Saxons," who found it easy to use. They might have pointed out the awkward translations and misspellings, such as "chicken throats" for chicken necks and "dietetic" (sic) foods.

In addition to the usual supermarket products, Tele-Sal also sells nonmedicinal products from Hyper-Pharm (misspelled in the index as "Hyper Farm"), do-it-yourself items from K'nei u-V'nei and office supplies from Super-Office - all Super-Sol affiliates.

To get the free catalog, phone the toll-free number 177-022-5656.

THE ULTIMATE food product for well-heeled yuppies may be a bottle of vinegar at NIS 28.

Carmel's Royal Vinegar is made from Cabernet Sauvignon grapes, then aged in a brandy barrel for six months. It is a real treat for gourmet palates, if their pocketbooks can stand it. The bottle contains 500 ml.

By comparison, Carmel's conventional red or white wine vinegar costs NIS 6.90, also for a half-liter. Ordinary citrus vinegars come in one-liter bottles and range from NIS 5 to NIS 7.

FEW CONSUMERS are more finicky than cats. The Dogli pet-food manufacturer is trying to please them with a new line of canned cat food called Catli Select, meant to compete with the better-known international brands.

William, my own fussy feline, actually ate some of the Catli Select sample selection but has maintained a preference for his usual imported brand. The local Catli Select, at NIS 4.95, is no cheaper than most imports.

It does, however, have a people-friendly can that pulls open without a can opener and comes with a plastic lid to reclose it for refrigeration.

DRY CAT food under the La-Cat label of the rival manufacturer, Maabarot, is now available in a huge nine-kilo economy sack, list priced at NIS 90.82.

The plastic sack has an easy-to-use plastic zipper which enables the contents to stay fresh. A sack that size does not require a large cat, but a large home. It takes too much storage space for the typical urban apartment.

As for taste tests, William eats this readily - though I despair that he'll ever finish the bag.



Dolce and Gabbana team a double-breasted hot-pant suit with a lace bra-top and black satin shoes with wraparound laces.

They give their designs a touch of Madonna

FLAIR
GREER FAY CASHMAN

ITALIAN designers Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana are determined to break every taboo in the book.

The two are anything but conservative in their choice of personal attire, and their combined flamboyance is reflected in the collections which appear under the Dolce & Gabbana label.

Madonna is one of their clients, so it's not difficult to guess that their garments are mostly figure hugging and funky to the point of being outrageous.

Until recently, Israelis who wanted to wear D&G had to do their shopping in Europe, the US and Asia. Now they don't have to go any farther than Tel Aviv's Kikar Hamedina, where the Boss fashion concern has invested \$450,000 in a 250-meter, 3-story store just for Dolce & Gabbana.

Given the ever-increasing number of international brand-name stores in Kikar Hamedina and nearby Gan Ha'ir, it is hard to imagine that only a decade ago, hardly any of these places existed. D&G has joined a long list of French, Italian, American, Japanese and British fashion houses doing business with and in Israel.

Decidedly upper up-market in price, D&G in a decade has attracted a large following around the world.

The current collection, with its emphasis on bras and corsets,

seems to be inspired by Madonna, even though the bras are neither cone shaped nor exaggerated. Also based on underwear concepts are slip dresses and low-necked tops fashioned like spencers.

Although there is the occasional flared skirt, the silhouette in general is clinging, and the fabric fine to the point of maximum revelation.

White and black are the dominant colors, both in their own right and in positive/negative effects. Below-the-knee and calf-length transparent skirts are frequently seen over shorts, but in general, D&G favors super-sexy micro-minis teamed with either single- or double-breasted long jackets.

Androgyny is back in tuxedos and in black-striped mannish pants suits, worn with white shirts and black ties. The hard look is softened as soon as the black gives way to a powder pink in a similar style, in which the wide-cuffed pants are replaced by pleated and cuffed shorts.

D&G likes mixing proportions and concepts and will frequently do something like topping a low-cut, ultra-slim black mini with a long, swinging trench coat. Alternatively, a mid-cuff dress will be paired with a knee-length coat.

D&G obviously has a thing about busts, and its necklines are low enough to let it all hang out.

BARGAIN BASEMENT

OFFERS

BOX-SPRING MATTRESS BED - queen size, NIS 250. 04-458413.
BERGE CARPET - good condition, 3x3 m. NIS 75. 03-9234719.
DISC MAN - excellent condition, NIS 300. 09-7718757.
LEE JEANS - new, 42 waist, NIS 100. 03-5320847.
DOT MATRIX PRINTER - Hyundai, NIS 300. 03-6054232.
COMMODORE 1280 - Quicksilver personal computer including games and 2 joysticks. Excellent condition. 09-912790.
UNIVERSITY BOOKS - English literature and psychology, good condition, token price. 09-553136.
RADIO/RECORD PLAYER/TAPE RECORDER - unit, needs repair, with 2 speaker boxes, 2 microphones, headphones. NIS 100 the lot. 02-6419788.
EVEN-GLOSSIAN HEBREW DICTIONARY - not used, 7 vols., NIS 300. 04-311726.
HARD-LENS CLEANING - soaking and wetting solution, gas permeable, three sealed bottles plus free lens storage case. NIS 40. 02-714274.
MIXER-OT GEDOLLOT - 2-vol. *humash*, large format, like new, NIS 100; youth alarm watch, Casio, NIS 30; elegant cut-glass bowl NIS 70. 02-789712. NS.

DISHES - stoneware, set of 16, dinner plates, salad plates, cups, saucers, used for only one year, NIS 300. 02-863376.
EASY CHAIR - opens out to bed, NIS 100. 02-791242.
SEWING-MACHINE TABLE - NIS 100; answering machine, NIS 150; up shoes, size 35, NIS 75. 02-286163. NS.
16 CANTORIAL LP RECORDS - Rosenblatt, Hershtman, Kosevitsky and more, NIS 15 each. 02-830024.
MAD MAGAZINES - 100 copies, NIS 200 for all. 02-810192.
CHILD'S SPLIT BED - NIS 250; bed, NIS 50. Yaelle, 02-82143.
BAT MITZVA/BRIDESMAID DRESS - white with touches of silk blue, almost new, NIS 275. 02-9931675. NS.
FISHER PRICE HIGH CHAIR - NIS 120; Saugli Deluxe, NIS 120; Fisher Price Jolly Jumper, NIS 60. 02-6254561.
RECEIVER/AMPLIFIER - Marantz SR 6000, perfect condition, NIS 300. 02-335613.
SARI - silk, NIS 60; cushion cover, NIS 50; lace, NIS 15; skirt, NIS 70; dress top, NIS 80. 02-856620.
WHITE SNEAKERS - Easy Spirit, ladies', size 9, new, NIS 150. 02-6526871. NS.
SOFA - converts to single bed, NIS 75; dimplex wood door for bathroom, NIS 75; dimplex heater, NIS 75; green material for railing, 30 m. NIS 75. 02-854689. NS.
ANY RICE PAPERBACKS - Vols. 3 and 4. *Queen of the Damned* and *Tale of the White Thief*, NIS 40. 02-734101. NS.
EXERCISE BICYCLE - NIS 100; carpet,

1.50 x 2.50 m., NIS 75. 02-666485.
2 WEIGHT-LIFTING BELTS - new, adjustable, NIS 60 each; telephone, wall or desk, NIS 60. 02-820242.
LARGE WOODEN DESK - 140x60cm with small cabinet attached, NIS 200. 02-6541155, evenings or leave message.
RESEBOX - professional sport shoes, size 10 US (44 Israeli), NIS 300. 02-6513222.
BABY CARRIAGE - Graco, beautiful print, hardly used, excellent condition, NIS 300. 02-819735.
AKAI SPEAKER - almost new, 60 W, with grill, NIS 120. 02-6513222.
JACUIM CLEANER - Hoover, electric, with attachments, very good condition, NIS 300. 02-634251.
AUTO-FOCUS CAMERA - Olympus, NIS 150; men's sport coat, large, NIS 100; 1 jazz CDs, NIS 50. 02-6518760.
GREEN RUG - 2 x 1.3 m., from Sweden, NIS 150; pressure cooker, NIS 40. 02-655636.
ELECTRICITY METER - 3 phase plus approximately 27 meter electric cable, NYV'S x 4, NIS 250. 02-9932260. NS.
COLOR TV - 1978 Rank, 22", needs repair, free. 02-864448. NS.

WANTED

STEREO MICROSCOPE - for jewelry making, high magnification not required. 02-523760.
HENRY MILLER - books written by or about him. Pierre, 07-914298.
RA'ANANA - late evening daily walk companions) wanted. 09-989711.

CHILDREN'S TOYS - Lego, sofa bed, cupboard, will exchange for computer supplies. Codi, 09-828985.
LARGE WOODEN DESK - to New York with two children, wants help for pay on July 12, TWA #885-0130. Shira, 06-526657.
INFORMATION ON ENGLISH-SPEAKING KINDERGARTENS - for age 2-3 in Beit Hakermel and French Hill. 02-6524681.
INFANT SEAT - changing table with drawers, playpen, baby toys, umbrella stroller. 02-334102.
WOMAN/FAMILY - bound for Money, companions for young woman, El Al flight to Newark, NJ, August 7, 12 noon. Sara, 02-381366. NS.
ROLLERSKATES - sizes 32 child, 43 adult; aquarum and equipment. 02-731285. NS.
VIDEO CAMERA - VHS, used. 02-371547.
MORNING RIDE TO RAMAT GAN - paid, desperately needed. Ahuva, 02-788956. NS.
CAR SEAT - Fisher Price or Century in excellent condition, up to NIS 100. 02-34074. NS.
BUNK BED - in good condition. 02-9975471.
USED BICYCLE - for 11-year-old boy or girl. Sue, 02-762570.
"THE GOOD EARTH" - by Pearl Buck, in reasonable condition. 02-686614. NS.
WASHING MACHINE - second-hand, good condition, as donation to needy couple. 02-666862, evenings.

VITAMIN CAMERA - Does anyone know how to import vitamins? 02-6515741. NS.
COLOR TV - 12" or smaller. 02-817388.
2-DRAWER FILING CABINET - at a reasonable price. 02-810254/253019. NS.
SECOND-HAND HARP - in good condition. 02-31234, ext. 172, after 9 p.m.
BABY SLING - or side carrier for older infant. 02-711151. NS.
RELIGIOUS PLAYGROUP - English-speaking, for 2-year-olds, in Old Katamon, seeking 3 more children. Naomi, 02-665626. NS.
TWIN STROLLER - side-by-side, in good condition. Also, anyone have extra free shampoo to sell? 02-6510369. NS.
GOLF PARTNERS - sought for common travel and play at Caesarea. 02-731021.
DOG CAGE - for small/medium-size dog, reasonable price. 02-736580.
LEGO - for two young builders. 02-791665. NS.
VIDEO CAMERA - VHS, American format, used. 02-371547, evenings.
USED FURNITURE - for Russian olim, will collect. Keren Klita, 788277. NS.
STOREROOM FOR OLIM - seeks electrical appliances, household goods (pots, pans, dishes, etc.), old furniture, etc. 25 Givat Shaul St., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 513534, will collect.

Jerusalem, metal frame, bluish color. 09-921853. NS.

PETS

4-MONTH-OLD FUZZIES - need good homes, have shots. 02-9933068. NS.
CHOCOLATE POODLE - purebred, 6 weeks old, NIS 300. 02-666350.

LOVELY BLACK KITTEN - free, only to loving home. 02-716806.
SWEET GIRL PUPPY - German shepherd, smart and beautiful parents, NIS 300. 02-720338. NS.
INTERESTING ASSORTMENT - of healthy, frisky kittens, free to good homes. 02-263521. NS.

Sorry, no listings accepted without a coupon

BARGAIN BASEMENT - FREE CLASSIFIEDS

BARGAIN BASEMENT accepts ads of up to 20 words free of charge on these conditions: Only one ad per household per week. THE LIMIT per ad in the "offers" section is a TOTAL of NIS 300, and the price of each item must be stated in shekels. The following ads are NOT accepted: business offers; apartment sales, rentals or exchanges; car sales; job offers; situations wanted; solicitations for donations; offers of marriage or other personal relationship. Ads must be printed in English and submitted on the attached coupon. ADS MAY NOT BE SUBMITTED BY PHONE OR FAX. The right to reject or edit any ad is reserved.

Ads must reach The Bargain Basement, The Jerusalem Post, Rehov Yirmeyahu in Ramat (POB 81, Jerusalem 91 000) by NOON Sunday of the week of publication. Because of space limitations, ads may be held over and published the following week.

The price of each item must be stated

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Address _____
Tel. _____
MESSAGE _____

LOST AND FOUND

LOST - pair of eyeglasses, somewhere in

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EDITORIAL OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION The Jerusalem Post Building, P.O. Box 81, Romema, Jerusalem (91000)
Telephone 315666, Telex 26121, Fax 389527. CIRCULATION - 315610. FAX 389017. ADVERTISING - 315608, 315637-40. Fax 388408. TEL AVIV: 5 Rabin Hanager, POB 28398 (61283) Telephone 6390333, Fax 6390277. HAIFA: 19 Nordau, Hader Haemel, Telephone 627124. Published daily, except Saturday. In Jerusalem, Israel by The Jerusalem Post Ltd. Printed by The Jerusalem Post Press in Jerusalem. Registered at the G.P.O. © The Jerusalem Post 1994. Reproduction, or storage in a retrieval system, or any other form, is prohibited without permission. Editors: 1932-1955 GERSHON AGRON, 1955-1974 TED LURIE, 1974-1975 LEA BEN DOR, 1975-1989 ARI RATH and ERWIN FRENKEL, 1990-1992 N. DAVID GROSS

Appeasement on Jerusalem

In a surprise step, the Clinton administration has positioned itself squarely against Congress's intention to start building the American embassy in Jerusalem next year. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's letter warning Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole that a resolution calling for the embassy transfer would prompt a presidential veto seems aimed at stopping the bandwagon for the move. To date, 55 senators have signed on to the bill, initiated by Jon Kyl of Arizona and presented to the Senate on May 9 by Dole. Sixty-seven votes are needed to override a presidential veto.

Admitting that President Bill Clinton himself has promised to move the embassy - it was an explicit and unequivocal election pledge - Christopher rationalizes the threat of a veto by stating that nothing should be allowed to get in the way of the peace process in "an especially delicate period." Implying that Washington's credibility would be damaged if the bill passes, he states, "Few actions would be more explosive and harmful to these efforts than for the US, as the key sponsor of this process, to be pushing the Jerusalem issue forward."

But it is disingenuous to suggest that a decision not to move the embassy will not be prejudicial. The reason the issue is "explosive" is that the PLO has threatened that it would "kill the process." To yield to this threat is to make every move the PLO dislikes hostage to the threat of "explosion."

The proposed move of the US embassy does not change the status of Jerusalem: The embassy is to be located in the western part of the city. But acquiescence to the demand not to move it at this time implies that even the fate of this part of Jerusalem is to be determined only in the final status negotiations with the PLO. It is not an impression the Clinton administration should be making.

Officials of AIPAC, the "Jewish lobby" in Washington, have said that they will continue

their efforts to sign up senators for the bill. They obviously feel that the move has the support of the vast majority of American Jews. Some Washington observers believe that the administration's move is only a ploy aimed at forcing a compromise on the bill, which they believe will be achieved before September.

But in threatening a veto, the message the administration must be heeding more than any other is Israel's thunderous silence. The subject of Jerusalem, on which the government is professing immovable determination, seems to have become an embarrassment. There is, to be sure, continuing lip service to the slogan "an undivided Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty," but instead of giving the Dole bill the whole-hearted support it deserves, the government has been treating it as a piece of legislation about a remote town in Outer Mongolia.

The government has also been sending signals from Jerusalem itself which point to a less-than-total resoluteness. In an abrupt surrender to pressure from its Arab coalition partners and King Hussein, it has forfeited the right to expropriate land in Jerusalem. In another surrender - to naked violence - it has suspended the demolition of illegally built houses in the city. And, yielding to the familiar threats that the peace process would collapse if it took action, it has given tacit approval to the growing activities and rising profile of "Orient House" and other official Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem.

True, none of these surrenders have anything to do with Israel's sovereignty in western Jerusalem, which is what the move proposed in the Senate would recognize. But it is difficult to expect Washington to be more determined about resisting Arab threats on the Jerusalem issue than Israel seems to be. One can only hope that the US Senate will understand what the government has been unable to realize ever since it signed the Oslo agreement: that no real peace can be achieved through appeasement.

The Peace Watch report

THE Peace Watch report on the Palestinian Authority's efforts to disarm militias in Gaza should come as no surprise. At one point the PA did invite the international press to view an arms cache it had uncovered, and it has introduced one or two would-be suicide bombers purportedly apprehended by its security forces. But quite clearly the Palestinian security services have no interest in disarming the five major Gaza militias: the two Islamic groups, Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the two radical PLO rejectionists, PFLP and DFLP, and the Fatah Hawks organization, the military arm of Fatah, Arafat's own group.

In fact, PA officials have openly said that they would not attempt to live up to the Cairo agreement and disarm these groups, giving as a reason the threat of civil war. Since civil war among the Palestinians can only destroy the process, they maintain, Israel, too, should not want these militias disarmed.

Indeed, all indications are that Israel has accepted this argument. There has been virtually no criticism of the PA from the government in the past two months. On the contrary, the

government has approved the hiring of a lobbyist in Washington to oppose congressional efforts to link American aid for the PLO to its compliance with the Cairo agreement.

Instead of disarming the militias, Yasser Arafat has persuaded them to hold their fire and give the process a chance. They all share the wish to see Israel leave Judea and Samaria, and they have been convinced that at this point acts of terrorism will not hasten Israeli withdrawal, as they had done in the past, but inhibit it. They have not, however, been persuaded to forfeit their weapons or to accept Arafat's authority.

Whether they will be able to refrain from terrorist acts during the necessarily cautious Israeli retreat only time will tell. As the government has made clear, it would be foolhardy to expect a withdrawal to take less than a few months, even if an agreement on the implementation of the interim phase is reached by early July. And, as the Peace Watch report makes clear, the PA has no intention of depriving the militias of the terrorist option - which they may exercise if they find the pace and degree of the Israeli withdrawal less than satisfactory.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BASIC LAW

Sir, - I suggest that a basic law be passed, call it the consensus law, requiring that any change, either expansion or contraction, in sovereignty require either a 67-percent majority in the Knesset, or failing that, a 67-percent majority in a referendum. The same conditions should also be assigned to changes in other basic matters, such as the method of electing the prime minister and members of the Knesset. It is obvious that a general approach such as this is better than the specific law proposed to protect the Golan. After all, today it's the Golan, tomorrow it could be Jerusalem. Furthermore, the consensus law would also prevent future excesses.

STEPHEN S. COHEN
Ma'alot, Admonim

CAPTAIN OCSKAY

Sir, - In connection with a historical research project into the origins and role of the Budapest-Hungary Labor Service Company 101/359 (known as Clothes Collecting or Ruhagyűjtő) and its exceptional commanding officer Captain Laszlo Ocskay to whom the survival of approximately 1,500 Jewish men, women and children is being credited during the period of October 1944 to January 1945, we require the names of survivors, documentation, eyewitness descriptions, photographs, etc. Please send all available material, or write to the undersigned about the availability and where it can be inspected, at 3671 Hudson Manor Terrace, No. 3C, Riverdale, NY 10463-1147, telephone and fax (718) 548-0771.

DAN DANIELI
Riverdale, New York.

THE IMPORTANCE OF JULY 1

Sir, - Immediately after the Oslo agreement, the implementation of its first phase took place, the Israeli occupation forces withdrew from Gaza and Jericho, and all the authorities in these areas were handed over to the Palestinian National Authority.

The second phase of the agreement, which was supposed to be completed by July 13, 1994, was not honored by the Israelis. Rabin announced July 13 was no holy date, thus sentencing the peace process to uncertainty.

In March 1995, Arafat and Peres met in Gaza and both agreed on another date for completing the talks on the second phase, i.e., the redeployment of Israeli forces (essentially withdrawing) from Palestinian populated areas (cities, towns, villages and refugee camps), allowing in the process free, democratic Palestinian elections to take place, which the Palestinians expect will take place within two months of the withdrawal. However, Rabin repeated his statement that July 1 was not a holy date. According to Rabin, all dates are elastic; they can be stretched to suit his state of mind, mood and his agenda for the Israeli elections.

For the Palestinians, Rabin's statements confirm the opinion that he cannot be trusted, and perpetuate the feeling of uncertainty about the fate of the peace process. Not complying with the July 1 date to conclude the agreement on the implementation of the second phase of the Oslo agreement will almost certainly throw the whole peace process into disarray. Such an outcome will

only encourage the forces of the past, the enemies of peace and the extremists on both sides. Therefore, every effort must be made to inject credibility, faith and certainty into the peace process. This can only be done by complete adherence to the spirit and text of the Oslo agreement and this means honoring the July 1 date as agreed.

WALID M. AWAD
Palestine Institute of Management
Ramallah.

SUICIDE

Sir, - In an article entitled "Bitter irony of soldier suicides" by Sue Fishkoff (May 12), Col. Shmuel Kron, said to be the chief psychologist of the IDF and head of the IDF mental health department, is quoted as saying, "Who else can you blame in a suicide case except the victim himself?"

I was particularly disturbed by the use of the word blame. It places the responsibility of the death on the deceased, that in some way he had supreme control over his death.

However, in the vast majority of suicide cases, the individual was depressed. How can one blame a person for suffering from depression? Depression has been proven to be a clinical entity, as much as heart disease or diabetes. Patients suffering from the latter are never blamed for their illness, so why then do we continue to place the burden of responsibility of depression, and its sometimes fatal consequences, at the feet of the sufferer?

MARTINE DAVID
Cape Town, South Africa.



The defense dinosaurs

AS the 21st century draws ever closer, the first military hardware priority is "spy-in-the-sky" satellites.

Learning the hard way, Israel was one of the first countries to realize the need for these marvels of modern science.

Equipped with sophisticated cameras and cloud-penetrating radar imaging equipment, these satellites can detect danger as soon as a plane or tank engines start warming up, and even when missiles are being prepared for delivery.

Initially, the dinosaurs of military establishments sneered at such fancy toys. One American general said of the first Russian Sputnik satellite: "Anyone can fling a chunk of iron into the sky."

In the same way, when Yitzhak Rabin was deputy chief of staff, he disparaged then deputy defense minister Peres's initial proposal to build an Israeli missile as pie in the sky.

It took the frustration of being sitting ducks during the Gulf war for Israel really to appreciate the importance of satellites. The Americans seemed to be deliberately keeping real-time details from us so we wouldn't retaliate against Iraqi Scud missile attacks. It was the determination never to be caught in the same plight again that prompted the Ofek-3 spy satellite project.

And what a magnificent creation our own blue and white satellite is! Its signals are extraordinarily successful, way beyond expectations.

The most modern Russian or US program can produce a sharp by 10 meters. Ofek does far, far better, although precise details are secret.

At last week's Paris Air Show, Israeli representatives were bombarded by enquiries about the country's satellite program.

Now it is the turn of the European powers, chiefly France and Germany, to be jolted out of their complacency. They too thought that they didn't need sophisticated satellite pictures. Like Israel, the Europeans trusted Uncle Sam to provide them with intelligence from American super-spy satellites.

Just as the US reportedly refused to supply Jerusalem with aerial information during the Gulf war, so now Europe is learning the

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

bitter truth: When push comes to shove, governments look to their own interests.

LAST SEPTEMBER, NATO ministers were shaken by President Clinton's refusal to grant them access to US electronic surveillance data gathered over former Yugoslavia. That was the result of White House opposition to the European embargo on sending weapons to the Muslims of Bosnia.

Even Britain, the US's closest partner, was outraged. (London had always maintained that it was not necessary to invest the billions needed for military spy satellites.)

Then it emerged that during the Gulf war, the US had withheld space data from its own allies. "They showed us interpretive analysis, but never the actual hard

By not marketing Ofek satellite pictures, Israel will shun big business

satellite imagery," declared a member of the French National Assembly.

And just as the Likud government accelerated the Ofek program after the Gulf war, so the French and Germans are now busy developing a state-of-the-art satellite program of their own.

Said Pierre Lellouche, adviser to President Chirac: "Our best tanks and planes are Cold War weapons. What we need are sky satellites."

Negotiations are now under way between Germany's Daimler-Benz aerospace company and Aerospatiale, France's industrial pride and joy. If they unite, they predict that they will become a world leader in the production of satellites within five years.

In a bid to keep their lead in the business, the Americans (in the form of Lockheed) have dangled the bait of a bargain-basement-priced satellite in front of the Europeans.

But the Europeans aren't falling for it. Once bitten, they are now shy. They prefer to dig deep into

their own pockets, creating employment, and utilizing their own creative talents.

This response is quite a contrast to Yitzhak Rabin's reaction to the same "We'll give it to you cheap" bribe. Rabin actually fell for this ploy twice.

First he canceled Israel's plan to build its own Lavi fighter plane, reputed to be the best in the world, buying US planes instead. Then he surrendered home manufacture of the Galil automatic weapon, accepting the cheap, inferior US-made M16.

A blunder of another kind is in the offing.

Israel Aircraft Industries, optics manufacturers and other companies involved in creating Ofek are well aware that they are now in the top league of satellite makers.

The Americans and Europeans are analyzing Ofek's achievements closely. Potential partners are ready to invest heavily in the costly business of making a commercial success of Ofek.

"We could earn between \$200m and \$400m a year, right away, by marketing pictures from Ofek," an satellite "marketing" expert told us.

Those who would be interested in such pictures are farmers, weather forecasters, fishing fleets, and mineral prospectors. Then there are those working to map the entire surface of the earth in digital form. And there are all sorts of environmental applications. It's all potential big business.

Yet the defense establishment has come down hard on the idea, claiming that, by going commercial with Ofek, Israel would be making its secrets available to its enemies.

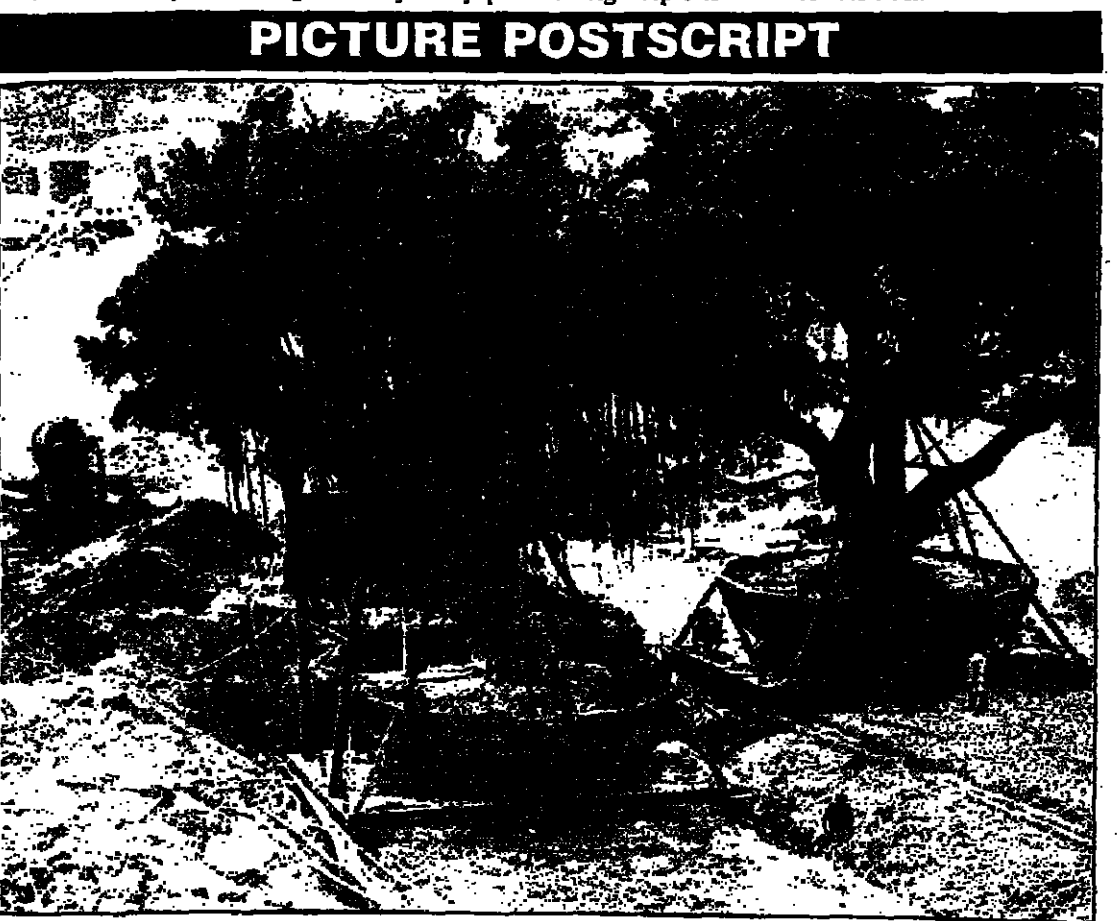
Yet this doesn't make sense, since Israel is already selling its "secret" weapons worldwide.

"Don't they think that these products will fall into the hands of our foes?" an industrialist asked us, rhetorically.

"Here we have the chance to exploit the brilliance of our scientists for peaceful means and create a vast brainpower industry. Israel's defense establishment policy is being short-sighted and destructive."

That's what happens when the dinosaurs are in command.

The writers are authors of The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East.



Two 100-year-old banyan trees creep up on a cement mixer in Hong Kong. The 24-meter-high trees are being moved 50 meters to accommodate a racetrack. (AP)

The long march

JESSICA MATHEWS

I don't feel at all gloomy about the planet's long-term prospects.

Technology and sound policy can, I think, support 8 billion or so people (today's world population is 5.6 billion) at a tolerable standard of living, and in reasonable harmony with most of the other 10 million species we live with.

Much less clear is how much damage we will do while gathering the necessary scientific knowledge and political will. And cleanup - whether of a polluted river or an eroded dust bowl - is generally 10 to 100 times more expensive than avoiding damage to begin with.

Given the competing needs for global capital, the cumulative size of the cleanup bill is crucial. If it gets too big, economic growth will be crippled. And irreversible phenomena, such as climate change and biodiversity loss, do not offer a second chance. We know we can correct mistakes, but not yet whether we can avoid them.

Hence the sense of urgency even an optimistic environmentalist feels.

This is where I part company with both those in the US Con-

Environmentalists are often optimistic about the future. It's the present that worries them

gress who think it's time to reverse direction (rather than to improve the legislative tools) and the feel-gooders who confuse progress with success.

One example of the latter is journalist Gregg Easterbrook, whose book, *A Moment on the Earth: The Coming Age of Environmental Optimism*, has been capturing a lot of attention.

Easterbrook argues that environmentalism has been an "astonishing success." In the developed countries, he says, just about every hill has been climbed. From here it's a smooth downhill ride. Magically, "it will not be long until business acknowledges that all products in all categories must be pollution minimizing."

It would be nice to savor some good ecological news, but Easterbrook's declaration of victory is way too premature, and he seems utterly oblivious to how the progress made so far has been won: it took - and still takes - precisely the drive and determination he despises, not a contented pause to admire the view at each step of what is still a very long march.

IT WILL not be beyond our reach to develop an agriculture that produces higher yields than today's best without chemical overload, soil degradation, water pollution and genetic impoverishment, and that can do so not just in the best farming areas, but in every geological and climatic niche.

It will be possible to breed plants that capture more of the sun's energy and to give many of them the ability to make their own fertilizer from the nitrogen in the air. Some of today's most crops will be turned into perennials, slashing energy use and conserving soils.

The perfect contraceptive - long-acting, safe, cheap, effective and reversible - can be developed for men and women.

Today's linear manufacturing techniques can ultimately be used to mimic nature's circular ones, in which there are no wastes, and every by-product is the starting point of another chemical pathway.

Recycling and reuse can easily be made the norm.

Automobiles can be made to be both high-performance and completely non-polluting. For example, by hydrogen made from water using solar energy.

Above all, energy use can be cut to a fraction of today's. Energy efficiency is a resource that has barely been tapped.

But before any of this happens, dozens of policies will have to change. GNP will need to be revised to include natural resource consumption. Prices of products and services will reflect their environmental costs. And then expected to conserve resources, whether agricultural land or the genetic wealth of tropical forests, will be granted ownership of them.

(Washington Post)

A homecoming not welcomed by US parents

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie,
When I was a baby, my parents left Israel to complete postgraduate degrees and ended up remaining in California (though every summer we visited my grandparents in Israel).

After one set of grandparents came to live in the States and the other set died, the annual trips stopped. I could tell my parents were losing their sense of connection to this country altogether.

I am now completing a year of study here, and I've decided to stay and go into the army. My parents are furious. They say I will be squandering all they've achieved "on my behalf."

Until now, we've always been so close, and I am hurt that they consider what I'm doing to be irresponsible. How can I persuade them to respect my decision?

Downtrodden Daughter
Tel Aviv

Dear Downtrodden,

When approval is not immediately forthcoming, respect is something which must be earned. If you don't "squander" your upbringing, acceptance and even respect will be shown you — just as it would or would not if you went back to California.

Your parents' harsh reaction may be connected to a feeling that you are giving them the proverbial finger. They may regard your resolve as an affront. After all, they chose to leave the country, and you are choosing to live here. In this sense, the dynamic at work is no different from any family confrontation in which a child behaves as though his parents are morally reprehensible. Ask yourself whether your intention is to "show them up." If not, make this clear to them in every way possible.

Dear Ruthie,

I am considering giving in to my children's pester about getting a dog. I've held off until now because we live in an apartment.

I always had a dog as a child, but we lived in a big house with a yard.

The kids are really desperate. The problem is my in-laws. They are both extremely uneasy around — in fact, frightened of — animals. If we do get a dog, my husband's parents won't visit. As it is, they don't come often. But, this way, they won't set foot in our house. What do you think?

In-Law Inhibitor
Petah Tikva

Dear II,

If your in-laws are not frequent visitors anyway, you should base your decision on the habits and desires of your immediate family.

You can continue to see the "grandparents" in their home. Perhaps, in time, they will learn to feel comfortable around the canine... if it's important enough for them.

Dear Ruthie,

My teenage son's room is always a mess. How can I get him to keep it neat? I've tried everything from ranting and raving to heart-to-heart talks, to bribery.

Messed-Up
Haifa

Dear Messed-Up,

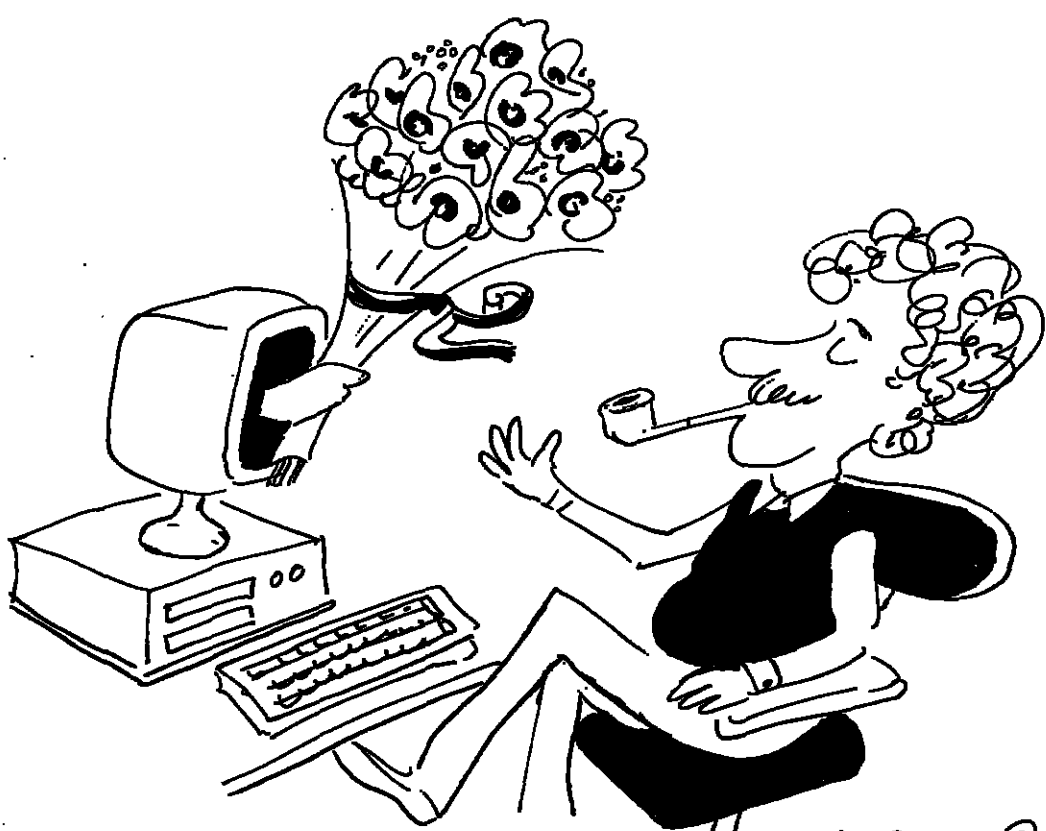
If I had an answer to that problem, I'd be a world-famous guru. And a millionaire to boot.

This is one case where the miserable have a lot of company. But stop fighting a losing battle. As the parent of an adolescent, you probably recognize that neatness is the least of the problems you have with him.

If it isn't, say a prayer of thanks, and leave it at that. In a child behaves as though his parents are morally reprehensible. Ask yourself whether your intention is to "show them up." If not, make this clear to them in every way possible.

In the meantime, keep his door closed.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)



E-mail for fan mail

LIFE-STYLE

DAVID STREITFELD

WRITING a novel frequently involves nagging doubt, wide-ranging worry and full-fledged despair.

What if I can't finish this book? Maybe all my talent has left me. Maybe I never had any talent. If I became a hack, would anyone notice? Maybe I already am a hack. I don't mind John Grisham being so much more popular, but why is he better-looking too?

Whereas writers used to get through the bleak hours with help from a bottle, 32-year-old Californian Michael Chabon has found a high-tech method of getting the reassurance that every writer craves.

On the rear flap of his third book of fiction, *Wonder Boys* — the well-received tale of a novelist who can't finish his novel — Chabon listed his E-mail address. When he accesses his America Online account every morning, he now reads things like:

"Your work has meant so much to me over the last few years.... Nothing, however, could have prepared me for the delicious pleasure of reading *Wonder Boys*. The actual physical experience of reading [it] is almost sublimely pleasurable." This piece of E-mail, which

continues in the same vein, is a little lush but still typical of the 300-plus messages Chabon has received since *Wonder Boys* was published in April. Only one person has expressed on-line anything less than total enthusiasm for the writer's work.

Chabon is not the first writer of fiction to put an E-mail address on a book. Bruce Sterling did it several years back with *Global Head*, a collection of short stories. But Sterling is a cult-like figure in the cyberworld for both his science fiction and his nonfiction, and his E-mail address had been widely circulated.

Accordingly, he didn't notice much difference after *Global Head* was published. Still, he says, "I think it's a good way to deal with the public. Fan E-mail is much easier to deal with than mail per se. I find it's very much like a bookstore signing — an extremely ritualized exchange."

"Dear Mr. Sterling: I just read your novel 'Heavy Weather.' I saw your E-mail address in such-and-such, and I wanted to say how much I liked it."

E-mail Chabon finds at least some of his E-mail correspondents expressing emotions at a deeper level, detailing how his words have changed them.

"If you tell me my book is selling well, that's a piece of useful information but it doesn't tell me anything about what people actually thought," he says. "All I knew before was what critics thought. To have these concrete, personal, emotional responses is such a — forgive the pun — novel experience."

A NUMBER of successful authors remain leery of giving out their E-mail addresses.

Many novelists, like Reynolds Price, already have a hard time keeping up with their correspondence. "At the beginning of my career, I was a 25-year-old lad who thought a well-raised boy answered his mail. As the years went by, I'm afraid entropy took over. I found myself unable to respond to a lot of this stuff."

E-mail, says Baker, the author of *Vox* and *The Fermata*, is too ephemeral to be satisfying. "They haven't gotten my handwriting, they haven't gotten a folded piece of paper, they haven't gotten enough of me." (Washington Post)

Woman as brat, bride, bohemian

BOOKS

DAN CRYER

THE BLUE WOMAN AND OTHER STORIES by Mary Flanagan. Norton. 313 pp. \$21.

IT'S disarming to note that the first story in Mary Flanagan's *The Blue Woman* is the most off-putting in the entire book. Yet readers willing to get past the brat who narrates "When I'm Bad" will discover why that particular story had to open this first-rate collection.

The author's aim is to examine the condition of contemporary woman from start to finish, beginning in childhood and ending in nursing-home dotage.

Here are stories about the feisty girl, the lusty teen, the innocent runaway, the bright college student, the bride, the selfless mother, the bohemian, the woman of a certain age, the senile grandmother — all rendered as vivid individuals rather than mere types.

Flanagan's tools are merciless candor and bright humor. Neither is allowed to dominate the view; both are deemed essential to the task. In her fiction at least, she is a feminist without ideology and without portfolio, roaming over this untidy realm like some Athena shedding light on the wise and the foolish alike.

Flanagan, an American living in London and the author of the story collection *Bad Girls* and the novels *Trust* and *Rose Reason*, sets these stories in America and England. On both sides of the Atlantic, danger and disappointment lurk everywhere.

The New England high-school girl with the reputation for playing fast with the boys dies an early death, forever remaining "the immortal girlfriend." The hungry innocent new to London in "Alice's Ear" will fall prey to the well-dressed man who offers her a meal.

In some of the best stories, Flanagan sets up a fascinating juxtaposition of women with divergent life-styles. Clare is the newly divorced, London working woman in "Mrs. Tiggywinkle Goes to Town"; Alison the suburban mother who devotes every waking moment to her husband and children. Clare's pity for Alison is balanced by her fondness for her friend's steadiness.

Yet when Alison ventures into the city, she inexplicably finds herself assaulting an immigrant woman and child and ends up in a mental institution.

Domesticity of the old-fashioned sort, it seems, leads straight to the loony bin. Yet Clare, too, soon will see the world anew. A year later, despite vowing not to do so, she marries again.

VARYING FROM social norms usually signals health for a woman, Flanagan implies, but the price can be high. Veronica Beatrice of "The Octopus Vase" is an American bohemian, a "high

priestess of simplicity" making do without electricity, plumbing or much money on a lovely Greek isle. In Veronica's presence, the story's female English narrator feels small, as though she had set her sights too low.

Summer after summer the narrator returns with her husband and growing family, delighting in Veronica's warmth and lack of inhibition yet awed by her elemental force. But eventually she and her husband, having built a house on the other end of the island, drift away from her, while Veronica abandons her home to the mice and spiders and disappears forever into the realm of mystery.

It's a pleasure to witness Flanagan's adroit appropriation of the octopus, one of Veronica's loves, as a symbol of both her freedom and her fragility.

For all of Flanagan's seriousness of purpose, her work overflows with humorous abandon. Life, she urges continually, is too chaotic, whimsical and just plain funny to be contained by rational categories and best-laid plans. Lightning up is the path to enlightenment.

"End of Terrace," for example, tells the tale of a brief love affair between a woman of a certain age and her plumber with the bemused tone of I-can't-believe-this-really-happened. "The Shoe God" fantasizes a way out of the perennial conundrum of finding shoes that are not only classy but comfortable. In "Beyond Barking," a free-spirited aging vaudevillean creates hilarious havoc in the search for sex within a nursing home.

Yet for Flanagan, humor is balm but no panacea for the problems of living female. "Bye-Bye, Blackbird" is a poignant portrait of a widow forgotten by her grown children and a would-be lover. "Not Quite Arcadia" imagines a 50-ish woman who's discovered an elixir capable of bestowing youthfulness and lovers upon her. Then, just as quickly, the mirage vanishes and she's thrown into an old age alarmingly like infancy.

Flanagan's title story, the only one in which the sexes occupy positions of nearly equal power, captures the delicate dance that is contemporary romance. Jane and Mal, editors at a British magazine, are lovers vacationing in Crete. At a taverna where they are the only tourists, they encounter a strange woman dressed in blue. What follows is a deftly observed power struggle between Jane and Mal, in light of this unsettling blue woman, who seems to represent women on their own, women not dependent on men.

Depending on neither literary tricks nor pretensions, *The Blue Woman* succeeds on the strength of its vast compassion for the infinite variety that is woman. (Newsday)

Fight that sinking feeling when the drain gets clogged up

FIX IT YOURSELF

TAL KATZ

DRAINS tend to give warning signals well before becoming completely clogged up.

We tend to ignore the fact that the water in the sink is taking longer than usual to make its exit. It is when the drain goes on full strike that we are forced to take notice.

If yours is a sink with plastic pipes underneath (installed in the last 20 years), here's how to deal with your drain.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

Bucket; towel; wire hanger or thick metal wire; pliers (plier); rubber gloves (for those who can't stand slime on their hands).

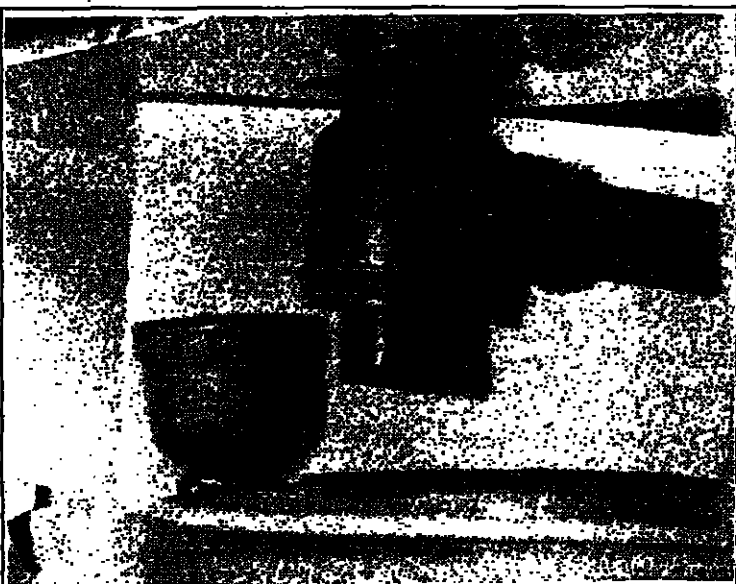
DIRECTIONS

Open the cabinet under the sink. Remove the garbage can, cleaning materials and anything else stored there.

Directly under the drain is a short pipe called the tailpiece, inserted into an udder-like capsule. Protruding from the side of the capsule is the drainpipe, which enters the floor at a 90-degree angle. (Sometimes the drainpipe enters the wall.)

The "capsule" is the trap, where all solid debris gets collected, allowing free flow of water from the tap to the sewer, via the drainpipe.

The trap is always filled with



As soon as the cover of the trap is unscrewed, water and debris from the sink will splash into the bucket underneath.

water, even when the faucet is not on. This prevents airflow between the sink and the sewer. (This is why there are no foul odors hovering around the sink.)

Place the bucket under the trap. Leave it there throughout the entire procedure.

Put on rubber gloves. Holding a towel around the base of the "capsule," unscrew the trap cover (the "udder") — left hand away from you, right hand toward you. As soon as the cover of the trap is unscrewed, water and debris from the sink will splash into the bucket. Empty the contents of the cover into the bucket.

Stand over the sink and look down the drain. You should see the bucket below. If you can't see it, then the tailpiece must be clogged.

In this case, take the metal wire (if a hanger, unravel it), and make a tiny hook at its tip with the pliers. Insert the wire, hook end first, into the tailpiece from under the sink upwards, pushing and turning until it emerges through the drain.

Each push of the hooked wire should be accompanied by a pull downwards, to dislodge all debris into the bucket.

Repeat as many times as necessary until the pipe is clear. Turn on the faucet a bit to assist washing down the dirt.

Then take the wire and scrape around the outside of the tailpiece — in the crevice between the tailpiece and top part of the trap from which you unscrewed the cover.

Make sure to scrape near the place where the drainpipe protrudes, in case any debris is caught there. Clean the trap cover thoroughly before replacing. It will be sticky and slimy from oil and soap film.

Screw it back on, this time without the towel for leverage. Free of grime, it should screw on easily.

(If the drain is still clogged, the drainpipe is probably the culprit, in which case removal of the entire trap unit is required, as well as the use of a snake — a more complicated repair.)

Remove and clean the bucket. You're done.

For a leaky trap (moisture buildup under the sink): Try screwing the trap cover more tightly. If that doesn't work, you

probably need to replace the black washer located above the thread of the upper body of the trap (the part from which the "udder" comes unscrewed).

In this case, unscrew the trap cover, as in above directions. (Don't forget to put the bucket underneath.)

Dislodge the old washer with a kitchen knife. Bring the old washer to the hardware store at time of purchase to ensure accuracy.

Such washers are not sold individually, so you'll have to buy a set (about NIS 7).

You must specify kitchen or bathroom sink. (Ask for: "pakungim lesifon shel kiyor mubak" for kitchen or "pakungim lesifon shel kiyor ambatya" for bathroom.)

Replace the washer and the trap cover. Remove the bucket. Now you're free to do dishes to your heart's content.

If you have a question or can suggest simple solutions to annoying problems, write to: Fix It Yourself, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

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E Y E ON THE M E D I A

DAVID BAR-ILLAN

Media reporting on Israel is not only relentlessly unfair but immensely harmful to Israel and to democratic values. The Jerusalem Post's popular and hard-hitting Eye on the Media column cites specific media reports and names to expose the bias, distortions and gross factual errors that plague such coverage. Reprinted here are 97 recent columns on the way the American, European — and Israeli — media report events. Eye on the Media is an eye opener; essential reading for everyone who cares about Israel, truth and journalistic ethics. David Bar-Illan's column is outstanding. He is 100% right. Teddy Kollek (Davar, August 21, 1992)

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1995

Housing prices not expected to rise significantly this year

HOUSING prices are not likely to rise significantly this year, as the supply of available housing will meet demand, Treasury State Revenues and Economics Department director Tsipi Gal-Yam said yesterday.

In contrast to last year, when the shortage of housing contributed to a sharp rise in apartment prices — which grew nearly at twice the pace of inflation — there are signs this year that price increases have moderated, Gal-Yam noted.

She first points to the moderate rise of 4.9 percent in housing prices during the first five months of the year.

In addition, according to Gal-Yam the increase in the supply of new apartments on the market in large cities and of unsold housing, together with a drop in mortgage applications, indicate expectations for a moderation in prices, as well as high interest rates.

Based on the combination of the demand for new households from the established population and new immigrants, which is partially offset by emigration, Gal-Yam expects that between 45,000 and 47,000 new households will be created this year.

Looking at last year's housing figures, which show housing starts at 43,300 and completions at 33,900, together with the marked increase in the number of

apartments under construction, which totaled 82,000 units by the end of the first quarter of this year, Gal-Yam estimates the supply will catch up with demand.

In addition, the number of housing starts doubled in the first quarter compared to the same period last year.

Construction permit applications in large cities jumped in January and February, and cement sales, a good indicator of construction activity, expanded significantly.

Provident funds suffer 8.3% real negative yield

JOSE ROSENFELD

PROVIDENT funds brought in an average real negative yield of 8.3 percent last year, reflecting the capital market's dismal performance, according to the Treasury's semi-annual report issued yesterday.

The negative yields contrasted with an average real yield of 2.7% in 1993, which resulted from the stock market's euphoria following the Oslo accords.

During the second half of last year, the funds' average yield was 0%, compared to -8.3% in the first half as the fall in stock and bond prices moderated.

The general stock index dropped 47%, the general government bond index rose 9.3% and the general corporate bond index increased 8.4% last year.

Last year's poor performance underscored how the funds have become more exposed to market fluctuations.

The funds tried to offset the impact of market fluctuations on their yields by increasing their investments in non-tradeable instruments — such as non-tradeable bonds, notes of deposit, loans and real estate.

The report, which compares

the performance of all provident funds (*kupot gemel*), shows that Clal's Dagesh Hazak, Hakibbutz Hadati's Shibolet and Pensia Kupat Gemel posted yields far outstripping those of their general provident fund competitors.

The three brought in net real yields of 10.2%, -0.3% and -4.9%, respectively. Clal's Dagesh Hazak fund was only established in March last year.

None of the specialized funds, which invest in specific instruments, had positive yields. The best performing funds included Bank Leumi's Signon Shikhi, with a yield of -2.6%, and Bank Hapoalim's Zahav and Dinamit Shikhi, yielding -2.9% and -4% respectively.

The top performing training funds (*karnot hishulim*) were Hapoalim's Shofim at -1.1%, Amal at -2.6% and Hapoalim's Mishpatanim at -4.7%.

Bank Hapoalim also outperformed its competitors in worker compensation funds. Pizium Bank Hapoalim yielded -4.7%, followed by First International Bank's Hamelacha at -5.4% and

Pizium Mercantile at -5.9%.

The three funds which showed the best average yield over seven years were Mizrahi's Shomron (7%), Orit (6.4%) and Leumi's Keshet (4.6%).

The average seven-year yield for all funds was 3.3%.

The various instruments in the funds' portfolios contributed to their yields in the following way:

Stocks brought in an average yield of -60% and contributed 98.1% to losses.

Similarly, tradeable bonds bore negative yields and contributed 16.4% to losses.

By contrast, non-tradeable instruments had positive yields, contributing 16.1% to profits. Other instruments, mostly liquid assets, brought in negative yields and contributed to a loss of 1.6%.

Total provident assets fell 7.8% to NIS 102.8 billion last year, compared to a 3.9% increase in 1993.

The drop is attributed to an 86% decrease in net member deposits, which last year totaled NIS 290 million compared to NIS 2,046 in 1993.

In addition, the negative yields eroded the funds' asset base.

Ares-Serono treatment of MS patients shows results

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS patients using Ares-Serono's recombinant interferon beta (Rebif) during a clinical trial showed a 60-percent reduction in the clinical attack rate, the company announced yesterday.

The study was part of a one-year clinical trial carried out on patients with relapsing multiple sclerosis in Italy.

Paula Ricci, senior executive vice-president in charge of research and development and regulatory affairs for the Ares-Serono Group, said that "to date, no other study has shown such a profound effect on the clinical attack rate experienced by multiple sclerosis patients. This was accompanied by a dramatic reduction in disease activity."

Another study carried out with Ares-Serono's native human interferon beta (Fronex) in Spain and Portugal also yielded positive results.



Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish (left) and visiting Alberta premier Ralph Klein sign an economic cooperation agreement yesterday. The deal will promote cooperation in the areas of technology, energy and environment. (Yisrael Hadeni)

Tsur: CAL airlines will exercise rights for license to carry cargo if El Al talks fail

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

CAL cargo airlines will exercise its rights to receive a license to carry cargo independently if it does not reach an agreement with El Al on export conditions, Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur told Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar yesterday.

The ministers agreed to give the companies one month to negotiate export conditions, after which they will appoint an arbit

trator to resolve the issue. Tsur said CAL will exercise its right to a license if an arbitrator is not nominated.

The companies have to agree on present agricultural cargo during the summer season, which accounts for a significant part of agriculture export profits.

According to the existing deal,

CAL flies agricultural cargo during the winter season. However, in recent years there has been an increase in export of agricultural produce during the summer, and CAL is demanding that El Al let it increase its transportation of agriculture cargo then.

According to Tsur, CAL is at a major disadvantage to El Al, which has a monopoly on exports and decides on export conditions.

ECP to invest NIS 6m. in Beersheba plant

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

ELECTRA Consumer Products (ECP) has announced it plans to invest NIS 6 million in an air-conditioning factory in Beersheba.

The plant will be in a 1,500 square meter building currently occupied by Shef Airconditioning Industries and in another building which was rented this week.

Electra purchased Shef last week for NIS 2.5m. and renamed it Electra Industries.

The factory has received approved company status and an additional investment of NIS 3.5m. from the Investment Center. About 100 workers will be employed there.

Electra general manager Eliazer Ben Moshe said the company's existing factory in Rishon LeZion is currently operating at full capacity.

The consumer product firm completed the first quarter with sales of NIS 189.6m., of which more than half represented export sales.

'Foreign workers could block cuts in unemployment'

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE surge in foreign workers in the past year carries serious socio-economic consequences and could impede further reductions in unemployment, Treasury State Revenues and Economics Department director Tsipi Gal-Yam warned yesterday.

Gal-Yam noted that the rapid increase in foreign workers was not the product of coherent policymaking, but rather the ad-hoc result of repeated closures which created pressures in the building industry and agriculture for those workers.

Out of the estimated 120,000 non-resident workers, about 60 percent are foreign, while the remainder come from the territories.

As of this year, the proportion of foreign workers to workers from the territories was reversed to the benefit of the foreign workers. Foreign workers make up about 20% of the construction

workforce and 15% of agricultural workers.

Gal-Yam said the continued replacement of territory workers by foreign workers is likely to permanently relinquish those industries to them.

However, she suggested those industries rely on workers from the territories because it will contribute to the territories' economy, which is in Israel's interest.

Moreover, as the economic situation in the territories improves, those workers will be able to find jobs there.

According to Gal-Yam, the continued employment of such large contingent of foreign workers will make it difficult to cut unemployment. According to her, having 10,000 non-resident workers replaced by Israelis is equivalent to a drop of half a percentage point in unemployment.

In the meantime, she noted it is preferable to employ workers from the territories, since unlike their foreign counterparts who send their earnings back home, the Palestinians' wages finance about \$1 billion in imports from Israel.

In addition, while the Palestinians return to the territories when their work is done, foreign workers need to be provided with housing, health care and other social services, creating an additional burden on the system.

housing, health care and other social services, creating an additional burden on the system.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

'Real danger that growth will slow, unemployment rise': There is a real danger that economic growth will slow down to three percent and unemployment rise to 8.5% in the coming year, Economics Ministry National Economic Planning director Rafi Bar-El warned yesterday.

According to him, if economic policies are not adjusted, unemployment will climb to 13% by the year 2000. Slower growth will push the country's foreign debt from 22% of Gross Domestic Product to 33% of GDP. It will also precipitate further income tax cuts, leaving the tax burden at approximately 40.3% of GDP.

Study — 19% of public will buy housing in next two years: The public will invest about NIS 34 billion in the purchase of housing during the next two years, according to a Geocartographica Institute survey of the housing market.

The institute said about 19 percent of households will purchase housing in the next two years, compared with 22% over the last two years. About 39% of the apartments purchased in the 1993-1994 period were acquired directly from contractors, while the remainder were second hand.

According to Geocartographica, about 80% of potential buyers in the next two years plan to purchase an apartment for family housing, another 11% plan to buy a house for their children and the remaining 9% intend to purchase property as an investment. Geocartographica said there is a 6% growth in the number of people that plan to buy a house for investment purposes, compared with the last two years.

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Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure
Electricity Administration

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The work consists of:
the erection of a 161 kV electric power line.

Anyone owning land or rights in this parcel is asked to write to me by June 27, 1995, giving his agreement to the execution of this work, or giving reasons for objecting to the carrying out of the work. The address to write to is: Electricity Administration, Min. of Energy and Infrastructure, P.O.B. 13106, Jerusalem 91130. My representative will be on the site concerned between 2:30 and 3:00 p.m. on June 27, 1995, to give explanations and hear objections to the said work.

Dr. Shlomo Brovender
Director, Electricity Administration

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI) ON COAL ASH TRANSPORTATION FROM POWER STATIONS BY RAIL

The Port & Railways Authority/Israel-Railways and The Israel Electric Corporation (hereafter The Companies) would like to receive information on existing and well proven, coal ash handling systems as follows:

- Description of the complete handling system including operation aspects.
- Description and technical data on the system equipment components; eg. special rail cars, containers, dust emission preventive systems, etc.

The equipment will suit UIC and/or AAR standards.

The information will be delivered in a sealed envelope until Aug 24, 1995, to the address mentioned below.

The information is requested according to the RFI specifications that can be obtained from:

Motti Eis - Projects Manager
Israel - Railways,
P.O.B. 18085, Tel - Aviv 61180,
ISRAEL
Tel: 972-3-6937471 / 972-3-6937404
Facsimile: 972-3-6937488

This is to clarify that this request for information will not be considered as an obligation of the companies for any kind of relationships between the companies and the information supplier. The companies will not carry any payment concerning the supply of information.

(TNUV) TARGET OXVO
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 20.6.95
Purchase Price: 140.78
Redemption Price: 138.79

PRIME OXVO
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date: 20.6.95
Purchase Price: 103.32
Redemption Price: 101.96

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
The Accountant General

Bids are invited for the supply of fire-fighting equipment for government agencies throughout the country.
Tender 3/95 - Supply of Fire - Fighting Equipment - extension of tender

The last date for submitting bids has been changed to June 27, 1995, at 1:00 p.m.

Bid forms can be obtained from the office of the Accountant General, Tenders and Buying Department, Min. of Finance Building, 1 Kaplan, Jerusalem Room 714 or 715, Floor 7.
Details from 02-317428, 02-317418.
No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

"A fax for you"
All you want to know about your accounts, on your fax, within 15 minutes.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (21.6.95)			
Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	4.825	5.000	5.175
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	4.825	5.000	5.175
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.000	2.875	2.750
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.875	1.875	1.875
Yen (10 million yen)	1.875	1.875	1.875

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (21.6.95)			
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Banknotes
U.S. dollar	3.4456	3.5012	Buy
German mark	2.9924	2.9990	Buy
French franc	2.1185	2.1207	Buy
Japanese yen (100)	4.7520	4.8204	Buy
Swiss franc	0.8938	0.9136	Buy
British pound	3.9719	3.9828	Buy
Dutch guilder	1.3929	1.4033	Buy
Spanish peseta	2.3537	2.3549	Buy
Italian lira (1000)	0.4023	0.4124	Buy
Portuguese escudo	0.4754	0.4833	Buy
Belgian franc (10)	0.6830	0.6906	Buy
Australian dollar	0.6894	0.6988	Buy
Canadian dollar	2.1414	2.1701	Buy
South African rand	2.1446	2.1721	Buy
Israeli shekel (10)	0.8074	0.8233	Buy
Australian dollar (10)	1.0317	1.0182	Buy
Israeli shekel (1000)	3.9125	3.9510	Buy
Jordanian dinar	1.7590	1.8201	Buy
Egyptian pound	—	—	Buy
EU	3.9102	3.9733	Buy
Irish punt	4.8314	4.9084	Buy
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4333	2.4725	Buy

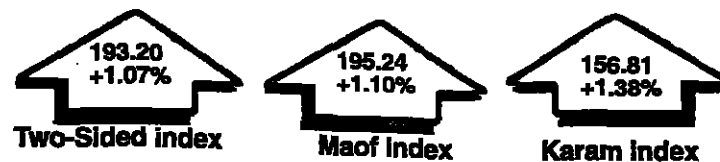
* These rates vary according to bank. — Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Gains by Teva help push market higher

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

FELICE MARANZ



THE stock market rose for a second straight day, buoyed by gains in Teva Pharmaceuticals.

Teva went up three percent as investors anticipated new data expected to support the efficacy of Copaxone, the company's multiple sclerosis treatment.

The drug has been submitted for approval to the US Food and Drug Administration.

The Two-Sided Index rose 1.07% to 193.20, while the Maof Index increased 1.1% to 195.24.

Across the exchange, nearly 50 shares rose for every one that fell.

Teva was the exchange's most active share, with NIS 10.8m. in shares changing hands.

Tadrian went up 3.5%, while Bezek increased 1.25%.

Evergreen Investments rose 4.5% after the company reported an increase in revenues for the quarter ending in April to NIS 4m. from NIS 3.7m. during the same period last year.

Net profits declined to NIS 1.4m. from NIS 1.7m.

Trading was halted in Lipman Electronic Engineering after the company announced an agreement with an unspecified Russian firm for purchases of Lipman products worth \$40m. over the next three years.

Declining shares included Osem, which fell 0.25%, and Elite, which closed 0.75% lower.

Electrochemical Industries fell 2% and Israel Petrochemicals dropped 1%.

FTSE Index edges upwards

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Blue chips ended marginally higher in another day of directionless trade, drifting steadily lower after early future-related gains.

The FTSE 100 closed 1.1 points higher at 3,378.3.

FRANKFURT - German shares ended firm but off modest intraday highs as Bund futures market turned to losses on worries about an upcoming economic survey and no-confidence vote in the Russian parliament.

The market was not expected to react to US trade, current account data.

The DAX Index ended up 7.01 points at 2,143.69. In post-bourse trade the index stood at 2,144.88, up 4.52.

PARIS - French shares finished slightly higher on expectations that an interest rate cut would accompany the new government's budget, due to be unveiled tomorrow.

The CAC-40 Index closed up 6.63, or 0.35%, at 1,902.75.

ZURICH - Swiss shares closed firmer on low volumes.

Stocks with heavy index weightings, such as Nestle, Roche and Sandoz, pulled the market higher after an indecisive start, dealers said.

SMI resistance level of 2,820/50 was attacked but not broken. The all-share SPI Index advanced 6.22 points, or 0.34 percent, to end at 1,856.90.

TOKYO - Stocks managed to close ahead for the first time in four days, but brokers said activity was dominated by technical factors, rather than fundamentals.

Indexes were powered higher by short-covering in futures which induced arbitrage-linked buying, they said. The 225-share Nikkei average gained 285.51 points to end at 14,951.21.

HONG KONG - The blue chip Hang Seng Index ended 35.04 points lower at 9,243.65, as investors displayed complete indifference to the market, said brokers.

Turnover fell to a meager HK\$3.23 billion from Tuesday's adjusted HK\$3.22b.

SYDNEY - The Australian share market closed slightly firmer with shares rising late in the session after local bonds rallied on speculation that a US interest rate easing is near after comments from Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan that the US economy was at risk of a recession.

The All Ordinaries Index finished 4.2 points higher at 1974.7.

JOHANNESBURG - South African gold shares finished a slow day weaker yesterday as prices corrected after a recent steep rally and as the rand strengthened.

The overall index shed 17.2 points to 5,501.6, the industrial index added 3.9 points to 6,851.6 and the gold index lost 25.5 points to 1,501.6.

Dow falls 3 points

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stock prices softened yesterday amid uncertainty about the future direction of interest rates, but the losses were minimized as investors continued to buy shares before the quarter ends.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks fell 3.46 to 4,547.10, after trading within a narrow 17-point band all day.

Advancing issues were nearly neck-and-neck with decliners on the New York Stock Exchange, and volume was moderately heavy.

Investors responded throughout the day to a Tuesday evening speech by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, who said that the nation's economic growth is slowing and that the

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFR	FF
MARK	2.2295/05	135.38/51	1.8420/43	7.8117/14
YEN	1.6447/88	0.7378/87	1.3598/11	5.7853/23
SFR	120.91/07	0.5422/29	73.49/54	4.2383/25
FF	0.2854/88	0.1278/81	17.31/56	0.2357/50

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading			Two-sided trading		
Commercial Banks			PARALLEL LIST Trade & Services		
Name	Price	% Change	Name	Price	% Change
Bank Leumi	110	+0.17	Bank Leumi	110	+0.17
Bank Hapoalim	105	+0.12	Bank Hapoalim	105	+0.12
Bank Mizrahi	100	+0.08	Bank Mizrahi	100	+0.08
Bank Hapoalim	105	+0.12	Bank Hapoalim	105	+0.12
Bank Leumi	110	+0.17	Bank Leumi	110	+0.17
Bank Mizrahi	100	+0.08	Bank Mizrahi	100	+0.08
Bank Hapoalim	105	+0.12	Bank Hapoalim	105	+0.12
Bank Leumi	110	+0.17	Bank Leumi	110	+0.17
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Bank Hapoalim	105	+0.12	Bank Hapoalim	105	+0.12
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Bank Hapoalim	105	+0.12	Bank Hapoalim	105	+0.12
Bank Leumi	110	+0.17	Bank Leumi	110	+0.17
Bank Mizrahi	100	+0.08	Bank Mizrahi	100	+0.08
Bank Hapoalim	105	+0.			

Israel-Canada Free Trade Agreement

Message From The Minister

SHIMON SHETREET

THE global economic structure has undergone tremendous changes in recent years. Market economies have emerged in eastern and central Europe and in central Asia, and new markets have been created by the reshaping of national boundaries. A new economic environment has also been created in Israel and the Middle East at large, as a result of the peace process in the region. Estimates based on the expected growth of population and economic activity predict that within 25 years, the Middle East and North Africa will constitute approximately 10% of the world economy, compared to the 2% it constitutes today.

The Israeli economy is vibrant and dynamic. The peace developments in the region have opened many windows of opportunity, and we can expect to see a rapid growth in the Israeli economy in the forthcoming years. Israeli world trade, for example, is expected to grow at an annual rate of about 9%. In addition, an expansion of economic activity in the fields of tourism, infrastructure, agricultural industry, water and energy is expected.

The Israeli economy is presently undergoing an accelerated integration process into the world economy. Israeli exports for 1994 are evaluated at \$24.5 billion; Israeli imports for 1994 are evaluated at \$33.4b.

Israel's most important trading partners are in the European Community and North America. These countries account for 64% of all Israeli exports and 77% of all imports. However, the new

Israel and Canada free trade negotiators are working towards a January 1, 1996 implementation date for a free trade treaty. Its implications are the focus of a Tel Aviv symposium today.

world political and economic constellation raises the expectations for new emerging markets in countries with rapidly growing economies. China, India, Hong Kong, Japan, Thailand, Russia, Czech Republic, Romania and Poland already account for more than 10% of Israeli exports.

The Israeli Ministry of Economy and Planning is responsible for the medium- and long-term global planning of the Israeli economy. In the Middle East, we suggest a tripartite model for economic cooperation, involving an Arab country (or the Palestinian Authority), Israel, and a third party from Europe or North America. Business partnerships of this kind can help in easing the psychological constraints of bilateral cooperation in the region, and will benefit all sides in terms of investments, international marketing facilities and access to new markets.

Canada plays a vital role in world economics and we are proud of the many successful business ties that have been forged between the two countries in numerous fields. We hope that Canadian business leaders and investors will take advantage of these new emerging business opportunities and will continue to review favorably the possibility of doing business in Israel and using our country as a strategic center for their trade and business in the region.

The writer is the Minister of Economy and Planning and Minister of Religious Affairs.

Import Duties Will Drop Immediately

YEHUDA RAVEH

AN immediate mutual cut in import duties will result from the signing of the free trade agreement between Israel and Canada.

Major progress has been reported concerning most of the basic principles of a future agreement, at the recent third round of discussions between Israel and Canada for the establishment of a free trade pact. According to the understanding reached, an immediate reduction in import duties by both parties will go into effect with the signing of the agreement, the target date for which is January 1, 1996. The Canadian delegation to the free trade talks was headed by Kevin Gore, and the Israeli delegation by Zohar Peri, deputy director-general for foreign trade at the Industry and Trade Ministry.

Several clauses still remain to be finalized, mainly concerning

the extent of protection to be maintained on behalf of Israel's agricultural products. While the Canadian government is offering to open its economy to Israeli food exports, with a few exceptions such as dairy and poultry, Israel has a long list of sensitive products it wishes to protect: fruits, fish, frozen vegetables, dairy, poultry and others which Canada is interesting in exporting.

The situation of Israel in connection with farm products resembles that of Canada vis-à-vis the United States. Both Israel and Canada are committed to the elimination of import duties, vis-à-vis the US, while reserving the right of maintaining adequate protection of certain agricultural sectors in accordance with their

agricultural policy. The Canadians have even suggested that its agreement with Israel should be similar to that with the United States. Israel is now, with regard to the rule of origin, completing a study of both the Canadian and American suggestions concerning the adoption of a new system of rules of origin based on the principles of Tariff Shift. Thus any agreement with Canada on the rules of origin will have implications regarding negotiations with the United States. There is a clear interest of both countries to have a similar set of rules of origin in order to allow cumulation of materials and products originating in the three countries.

Israel-Canada trade in 1994 totaled \$260 million. Israel's exports to Canada were \$102.5m,

led by cut diamonds (22%) and machinery and instruments (21%). At the same time, Israel's imports from Canada amounted to \$156m, mostly machinery and tools (25%), and raw metals and metal products (16%).

Looking at the first three months of 1995, we see a growth of 55% in imports from Canada, especially in electrical machinery and textiles. As for exports to Canada, there has been a growth of 25%, especially in cut diamonds, chemical products and machinery.

Since the parties are determined to introduce the new Canadian-Israel free trade agreement at the beginning of 1996, the new round of talks between the two countries will take place in the very near future.

The writer is president of the Israel-Canada Chamber of Commerce.

A chance to strengthen economic ties

Dr. NADINE BAUDOT-TRAJTENBERG

this. First, while economic links with the US have been strengthened by the Free Trade agreement signed in 1985, and those with the European Union by the Trade agreement signed in 1975, Israeli-Canadian trade was not given the same impetus and thus lingered with difficulty.

Second, while the Canadian market is an attractive one in terms of size, it is still a tenth of the US market and thus is often overlooked by Israeli producers.

Third, the Arab boycott had much more clout in Canada than it had in the US, though it occurred quietly and sometimes passively. For instance, Canadian companies were sometimes unaware that their reluctance to do business with Israeli companies,

because of their extended business links in Arab countries, represented de facto adherence to the Arab boycott.

Fourth, the Canadian economy in the early '90s went through the deepest recession of all the G7 countries and found itself with a rapidly rising government debt.

The free trade agreement now being negotiated between Canada and Israel will certainly boost trade between the two countries, eliminating a serious obstacle to strengthened economic relations. Moreover the trade agreement will come about just as both economies are booming. Indeed, while Israel pursues its now five-year long economic expansion stimulated by the wave of immigration and the peace process,

Canada's long awaited economic recovery has finally come about and with surprising strength. In fact, in 1994 Canada's GDP growth stood at 5.1% ahead of all G7 countries, with a 1.8% inflation rate for the year.

Canada's recovery has been led by the extraordinary expansion of its exports which rose by 42% during the past 12 months! An important element behind such feat is the undervaluation of the Canadian dollar.

The weak Canadian dollar makes Canadian products unusually attractive, which compounded with the forthcoming free trade agreement between Israel and Canada, should significantly boost trade, though the weak dollar will require determination and efficiency by Israeli exporters.

The writer is a senior economist at Bank Hapoalim BM.

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The Israel-Canada Chamber of Commerce

DOING BUSINESS WITH CANADA - TOWARDS A FREE TRADE AGREEMENT ERA BETWEEN CANADA AND ISRAEL

SYMPOSIUM

Thursday, June 22, 1995 • Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 8:45-9:15 | Registration |
| 9:15-9:30 | Opening:
Norman Spector, Ambassador of Canada
Arie Shachar, President, Israel Association for Canadian Studies, Academic Chair |
| | Yehuda Raveh, President, Israel-Canada Chamber of Commerce |
| 9:30-10:00 | Hon. Ralph Klein, Premier of Alberta,
Global Trade Opportunities |
| 10:00-10:30 | Pierre Paul Proulx, Université de Montréal,
Canada: International Economic and Policy Aspects |
| 10:45-11:15 | Eytan Sheshinski, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Chairman of the Board, Koor,
The Conceptual Framework |
| 11:15-13:00 | Session I
The Politics of Trade Negotiations
Zohar Peri, Deputy Director General, Foreign Trade Administration:
The Canada-Israel
Free Trade Agreement - An Update
Michael Hart, Senior Advisor: Trade Policy, Foreign Affairs and International Trade,
Ottawa - The Canadian Perspective
Doral S. Cooper, President, C & M International Ltd.,
Washington D.C.: An American Experience
Dan Halperin, Director General, Ifco-Mendian Ltd.: An Israeli |
| Perspective | |
| 14:00-17:30 | Session II
Doing Business in a Free Trade Environment
Hon. Arthur C. Eggleton, President of the Treasury Board of Canada
Responsible for Infrastructure
M.K. Shimon Shetreet, Minister of Economics and Planning, Israel |
| and Minister | |
| | Panel Discussion
Benny Landa, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Indigo Ltd.
Leon Koffler, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer,
Super-Pharm (Israel) Ltd.
Jean Pierre Souliere, President, S.H.L. Systemhouse International
Jean Jacques Bourgeault, Executive Vice President and Chief
Operating Officer, Air-Canada
Henri Rothschild, President, Canada-Israel Industrial Research and
Development Foundation, Ottawa
Prof. Michael Hart, Ottawa |

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What is a Chamber of Commerce?

The Israel-Canada Chamber of Commerce is:

- A voluntary organization that complements institutional facilities, acting independently and supplementing those areas in which government is active.
- An informative and coordinating body, comprising individuals and companies, large and small alike, covering all sectors of the economy.
- A body that maintains close ties with its sister chamber in Canada as well as with the Israel Embassy in that country, and through them, with economic and commercial institutions there.
- A body that maintains close ties with the Canadian Embassy in Israel, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Export Institute and others.
- A body that engages in activities in which every member can express his views and influence the promotion of trade between the two countries.
- Membership confers the right to receive various important services in the promotion of business principally:
 - Up to date information and advice regarding business opportunities in a variety of fields.
 - Personal assistance in making contacts with persons and bodies in Canada which are of interest to members.
 - Organizing symposia, conferences, lectures and other functions that offer the opportunity of update information, exchange of ideas and meeting professional colleagues and opposite numbers from Canada and Israel.
 - Organizing trade missions from Israel to Canada and assisting on business missions leaving from Canada in connection with purchase or sales proposals for products and services.
 - Maintaining ties with the professional committees of the sister chamber in Canada.
 - Information, assistance and advice regarding participation in professional exhibitions in Canada and Israel.

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R&D: The key to stronger ties

HENRI ROTHSCHILD
and HEATHER MUNROE-BLUM

FROM the start, Israel and Canada have enjoyed good bilateral relations. The reason they are considered "good" is primarily because there has been little discord on the important issues of the region.

Despite this, the commercial links between the two countries are weak, by any measure. Two-way trade between Canada and Israel was just over \$200 million in 1994, clearly a trivial amount. Yet there are many common interests and complementarities within the two countries that offer a good potential for much stronger economic bonds, a potential as of yet largely unexploited. As political issues happily, albeit slowly, give way to economic ones, the close ties between Canada and Israel can only be maintained by drawing on this potential, especially in the knowledge-intensive sectors of the global economy.

Canada and Israel share a common problem. Both are relatively strong players in fundamental research, and both are weaker in converting this base into comparative advantage on the global market of technology-incentive products.

There is no doubt that Israel's economic performance is heading in the right direction. Real GDP growth, growth in export of high-technology products, per capita GDP, etc., all point to a national system of innovation that is be-

ginning to perform as it should. As well, the effect of the unusually high qualified immigrant population is now beginning to be felt. Yet, because Israel's investment in intellectual capital is so high, this performance, while impressive, is not close enough to matching the nation's potential.

This is why Israeli government efforts are focused on:

- investing in industrial innovation products, especially in the high-growth sector of the economy;

- involving university research more intimately in areas of the nation's economic goals, particularly through multi-sector partnerships; and

- promoting international industrial R&D partnerships.

Canada shares these goals unequivocally. The last effort identified above is one where there is an opportunity to address such challenges bilaterally with Israel. Before expanding on this theme, let us review the challenge that is specific to Canada.

Canadian overall investment in R&D is relatively low. As a percentage of GDP, it is half of that of Israel. Within that effort, the share of industrial R&D is especially inadequate and heavily concentrated within a small number of companies. As well, there is not enough export-driven industrial innovation in the economically disadvantaged regions of the country such as Atlantic

Canada and the Prairies provinces.

It is therefore essential to broaden the base, both regionally and industrially. The North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) helps create the right climate for continued activity in this area. The forthcoming Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Israel will add another important dimension.

AS the climate for economic expansion is being created, let us focus on the methods that can be used to help achieve these economic goals. Universities play an important role in this regard.

They have a significant part in the promotion of industrial research and development, and in the facilitation of effective international R&D partnerships. A heightened level of cooperation has succeeded in creating an environment of enhanced understanding, an increasing synchronization of goals, approaches and ideologies, and a sharing of intellectual and monetary resources.

A tangible outcome of this increased partnering has been a decrease in this distinction between basic and applied research, as an iterative process of linking the two has been achieved.

These linkages are not only

strategic from an industrial standpoint, but in an era of increased cooperation, are a critical component to creating competitive advantages in the international realm. These linkages enhance the opportunities for Canadian and Israeli companies to access the brightest minds and the best markets. For Israeli companies contemplating the Canadian market, universities can represent an ideal entry point. Their established research linkages with industry and government can aid accessing and partnering with these sectors. The increasing emphasis on extending these multi-sectoral R&D partnerships into the international realm also affords the opportunity for bilateral relationships between Canada and Israel to incorporate new international partners. In an era of diminishing resources and increased competition, universities must be relevant to the communities they serve.

Landmark research is a daily occurrence in a great university — but without a dynamic relationship between university and industry, this information faces the prospect of missing the very communities which the university itself claims to serve. It is this very practical reality that has driven

Canadian universities to forge linkages with the industrial sector of an unprecedented rate.

Universities also help create new ways of looking at old problems by integrating the knowledge and techniques of a variety of disciplines. It is increasingly recognized that knowledge is far too complex for any one discipline or institute to have all the experts. It is through the discovery and transfer of knowledge to the public and private sectors that Canadian universities play a key role, and in doing so, advance the economic and social development of Canada, and other partners, such as Israel. The unmistakable evidence of emerging synergies in enhanced cooperation between industry and universities suggest that industrial R&D linkages between Canada and Israel will benefit from university partners in both Canada and Israel. Strong existing ties between Canada and Israel research intensive universities will facilitate such collaboration.

TWO interrelated objectives on the Canada-Israel industrial cooperation agenda appear evident. First, we should definitely seek to expand two-way trade. In this, as already noted, the FTA will be a welcomed stimulus. Canada can

be a very attractive market for Israel's growing capacity in information industries. And, in availing themselves of Israel's superb telecommunications/computer products and services, Canadian companies will become more competitive as a result — since such products are "enabling", i.e. they, in turn, make economic activity more competitive. For Canadian industry, the Israeli market is similarly attractive and, over time, can help in providing access to emerging markets in the region as a whole, as Israel's own economic integration in the Middle East emerges.

Second, a key opportunity lies in industrial R&D partnering. As the successful US-Israel Binational R&D (BIRD) initiative has demonstrated, such activities can truly be positive sum strategies. Since its establishment in 1977, BIRD has generated over \$3 billion in sales from an annual investment rate in projects of about \$12 million — not a bad return to investment! Comparative results are expected of the newly-formed (1994) Canada-Israel Industrial R&D Foundation (CIIRDF). The signing of an Alberta-CIIRDF Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) next week in Tel Aviv by Premier Ralph Klein is an important step in specifically targeting regional Canadian economies in that effort. By signing the MOU with CIIRDF Chairman, Dr. Shuki

Gleitman — Chief Scientist in the Industry Department — the Premier achieves two important objectives. First, he commits an agency of his government to promoting Alberta-Israel industrial R&D relations. Second, he commits Alberta resources (already earmarked for industrial technology development) to share in the cost of CIIRDF — approved partnerships, if the Canadian company is in Alberta. A similar MOU was signed last week by David C. Dingwall, the federal minister responsible for economic development in Atlantic Canada. Together, these MOU's will result in a significant expansion of the cross-Canada infrastructure devoted to enhancing the base for Canada-Israel commercial relations.

These initiatives, and the very encouraging first year start of CIIRDF, reflect the incredible potential for Canada-Israel cooperation. This will, in turn, help to secure and enhance the close ties that have characterized the relations between the two countries, and indeed propel them to greater heights.

Dr. Rothschild is President of the Canada-Israel industrial research & development Foundation (CIIRDF).

Dr. Munroe-Blum is Vice-President, Research and International Relations, University of Toronto.

Doing Business Between Israel and Canada — Towards a New Free Trade Era

DURING the last few years, the Israeli economy has undergone radical changes due to the occurrence of many different but often related historic events. The peace process together with the end of the Cold War has brought stability to the entire Middle East and encouraged nations such as China, Russia and other east European countries to open full diplomatic relations with Israel.

Moreover, in September 1993, Israel signed a Declaration of Principles with the Palestinian Liberation Organization, which is in the course of implementation and a peace treaty with Jordan. In view of these positive developments, the dream of Israel becoming the Switzerland or Singapore of the Middle East may become a reality.

The Arab boycott relating to trade with Israel is diminishing, and there is considerable potential for economic cooperation between Israel and its Arab counterparts. In addition, the recent immigration to Israel of approximately 500,000 Jews from the former Soviet Union has increased the potential of an already highly skilled work force. In order to take advantage of the aforementioned developments, the Israeli government has implemented many new incentives in order to encourage foreign investment in Israel. Israel is now in a unique position in that it enjoys the benefits of free trade area agreements with three of the largest trading regions in the world: the United States, the European Union and the European Free Trade Association.

Consequently, the majority of Israeli products are no longer subject to custom duties, tariffs upon import or other barriers of trade in those regions, and reciprocal benefits are granted by Israel to import from these regions. The net result is that in most cases, exporters from Israel have unimpeded success to the markets of the US and most of Europe, together comprising a population over 650 million potential consumers. Canada will shortly after signature of the Israel-Canada Free Trade Agreement, avail itself of such benefits too.

The existing agreements mentioned, and the agreement which is due to be signed with Canada, will give rise to the possibility of using Israel as a "trade bridge" to gain tariff-free access to the EC and EFTA for Canadian manufactured goods and vice versa. The industries which will obtain the greatest benefits from the combination of free trade areas will be those employing high

technology or those intensive in high grade labor, since Israel has a pool of highly-skilled manpower in these fields, which is relatively cheaper than those to be found either in the US or Canada or in Europe, combined with good transportation and many government incentives available for investments in these types of industries.

POTENTIAL use of the agreement to enhance Canadian exports to Europe is especially important today. In a period of protectionism and trade rivalry between the industrial powers, the ability of Canadian producers to trade in the European markets on a competitive basis will be further weakened once the European Economy Area is finally ratified. The EEA calls for freedom of movement of products, services and capital between the EU and EFTA.

By way of illustration, a Canadian corporation using a subsidiary company in Israel to achieve eligibility under the agreement may gain the following advantages:

- The import of Canadian-made components into Israel should be tariff free.

- The subsidiary company manufacturing the product should be eligible for investment incentives and other benefits available to Israeli industry.

- The subsidiary company may pay reduced Israeli taxes.

- The Israeli manufactured products should enter the EU and/or EFTA, tariff free.

Similar advantages may be obtained by way of joint venture between a Canadian corporation and an Israeli counterpart. Thus it will be seen that a possibility exists for use of Israel as a bridge between Canada and the EU and EFTA, subject to compliance with the rules of origin. This bridge will, of course, be usable as a two-way bridge, although its efficacy in the direction in exports from Europe entering Canada by way of Israel might be somewhat complicated by the added content rules employed by the Canadian Custom Authorities. Use of Israel as a bridge to Europe will be even more advantageous for manufacturers whose ventures necessitate the import of raw materials from the Far East, since Israel is located between the Pacific and Europe. In addition, transport from these areas may be facilitated by use of Israel's free port on the Red Sea, Eilat, which is linked by a quick land bridge to its ports on the Mediterranean, Ashdod and Haifa.

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Israel loses to Italy in European opener

CHARLES HARRIS
and agencies

AN Italian free throw and a last-gasp miss by Adi Gordon sent the national basketball team to a 73-71 loss to Italy in the first game of the 29th European championships in Athens last night.

The evening, however, did not have to end on such a sour note. The Israelis, who led by as many as eight points in the first half, were still very much alive in the final minute of the Pool A game.

Trailing 71-68, Gordon and Ofer Fleischer failed to cut the deficit on consecutive opportunities as a turnover and a missed shot underneath gave the ball back to Italy.

With 23 seconds left, Italy's Gregor Fucak failed to shut the door as he made just one of two free throws and kept the Israelis within reach at 72-68.

On the next trip downcourt, Guy Goodes nailed a three-pointer and sliced the lead to 72-71. After Claudio Coldebella converted one of two foul shots, Gordon missed a reverse layup, sealing the two-point victory for Italy.

The offensive story for Italy was Stefano Rusconi. The center scored a game-high 17 points on 8 for 9 shooting as Israel did not have a big man who could shut him down in the paint. Fleischer, who finished with 10 points, fouled early and often and was not even around for the end.

Coach Zvi Sherf must have liked what he saw in the first half, especially early on as Israel built an eight-point lead when Gordon came off the bench and hit a three-pointer for a 27-19 margin.

After a quick bucket by the Italians, the blue and white

matched their largest lead of the evening again when Fleischer slammed home one of the team's few dunks.

Down 29-21, Italy showed a little muscle of its own by scoring the next eight points — fueled by Rusconi's and Alessandro Abbio's consecutive dunks.

Doron Jamchee claimed the final two points in the first half when he scored on a rolling left hander. However, Jamchee finished only 2 for 8 from the floor for the night.

Israel held a 39-37 halftime lead, although the team was out-rebounded 18-10 and could not buy one offensive board in the first period.

The tide changed just as Italy took control of the ball to begin the second half. The Italians went on a 14-6 run, capped by Rusconi's dunk and three-point conversion.

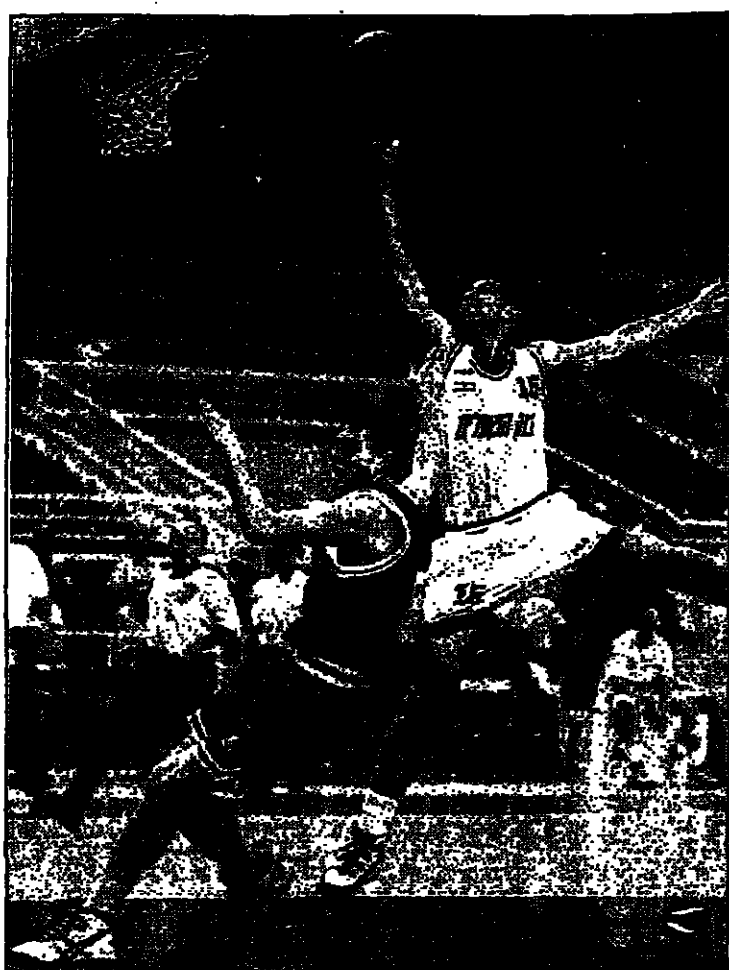
However, Israel stayed close for the remainder of the game and claimed its final lead of the evening, 65-64 when Jamchee hit his lone three-pointer with less than four minutes to play.

Jamchee, along with Doron Sheffer, finished with eight points apiece and Motti Daniel added nine. Nadav Henefeld led all Israeli scorers with 16.

Tonight at 10 pm Israel plays Sweden. Channel 1 is scheduled to carry the game live.

In other Pool A action last night, Yugoslavia overcame a nine-point halftime deficit to beat Greece 84-80 in overtime.

Trailing 43-34 as the second half started, the Yugoslavs were led by Dejan Bodiroga and Vlade Divac to a 72-72 tie at the end of



UNDER THE BOARDS — Motti Daniel (r) and Vincente Espósito battle for a rebound in last night's action. (Reuters)

regulation time. Bodiroga was the game's high scorer with 22 points. Divac (of the Los Angeles Lakers) and Zeljko Rebraca each pitched in with 18.

For the Greeks, Efthimis Redzias was tops with 17, followed by Costas Angelidis' 16 and Panayiotis Yannakis' 14.

Rounding out the Pool A

games last night, Arturas Karnisovas scored 33 points and grabbed nine rebounds to pace Lithuania to a 96-82 victory over defending champion Germany.

Arvidas Sabonis, the giant center who is heading to the Portland Trail Blazers, picked up four fouls in the first half and sat out most of the second half. But he

had 20 points and nine rebounds in 19:06 minutes of play.

Guard Sarunas Marciulionis, who plays for the Seattle SuperSonics, had 14 points as Lithuania, the Olympic bronze medalist, cruised to its win.

Russia, runner-up at the last European and World Championships, routed Finland 126-74 in its Pool B opener.

Less than five minutes into the game, Russia had already opened a 19-4 lead. Finland cut the deficit to nine points, 33-24, but Russia then went on a 19-0 run that gave it a 52-24 lead and buried Finland for good.

In another Pool B game, France beat Slovenia 89-68, behind 28 points from forward Yann Bonato and 18 points from forward Jim Bilba.

Turkey and Spain played late last night in the remaining Pool B contest.

In today's other Pool A games, Italy takes on Germany, and Greece plays Lithuania.

In Pool B action, Croatia challenges Slovenia, France faces Russia, and Finland goes up against Spain.

European National Championships

Pool A			Pool B		
	W	L		W	L
1. Yugoslavia	1	0	1. Russia	1	0
2. Italy	1	0	2. France	1	0
3. Lithuania	1	0	3. Slovenia	1	0
4. Greece	0	1	4. Finland	0	1
5. Israel	0	1	5. Spain	0	0
6. Germany	0	1	6. Croatia	0	0
7. Sweden	0	0	7. Turkey	0	0

Devils eye sweep

DETROIT (AP) — The New Jersey Devils can win the Stanley Cup without ever returning to Detroit.

Jim Dowd, who missed most of the season with a shoulder injury and didn't even play in the opener of the finals, scored with 1:24 to play Tuesday night and the Devils defeated the Red Wings 4-2 to go up two games to none in the NHL championship series.

"We showed that we can skate with them and play smart," Devils coach Jacques Lemaire said. "Our guys were physical and we nearly played a perfect game."

New Jersey, which has a league-playoff record 10 road victories, can wrap up the Cup by winning at home tonight and Saturday. The Devils were in a similar situation in the previous round but Philadelphia won twice at New Jersey. The Devils then won the next two games.

"We can't take it for granted," the Devils' Bill Guerin said. "We just have to keep going and can't let it slip by us. The series isn't over."

The Red Wings, trying to win the title for the first time in 40 years, will attempt to become only the third team in finals history to prevail after dropping the first two games at home. Detroit was the loser — to Toronto in 1942 and to Montreal in 1966 — on those occasions.

The Red Wings, who went into the series with an 8-0 home record and a 12-2 playoff mark, led 2-1 midway through the third period but gave up goals to Scott Niedermayer, Dowd and Stephane Richer in the final 10:13.

On the winner, Detroit defenseman Paul Coffey blocked a shot by Guerin and lay on the ice even as the Devils passed the puck around Detroit's zone.

Tommy Albain got the puck to the right point for Shawn Chambers, whose slap shot was blocked by goalie Mike Vernon into the slot. Dowd then backhanded the puck into the vacated net.

Stewart to keep wicket in 2nd Test vs. Windies

LONDON (Reuters) — England chairman of selectors Ray Illingworth has persuaded Alec Stewart to keep wicket in the second Test against West Indies starting today as well as opening the batting if the home side bats first.

Stewart kept wicket during England's nine wicket defeat in the first Test but failed at number five with the bat in both innings.

He was restored to his usual spot at opener for the second Test after making clear he did not want to both keep wicket and open the batting and wicketkeeper Steve Rhodes was recalled to the squad.

Stewart will open with England captain Michael Atherton if England bats first and could also open after England has been in the field provided he is not too tired. Otherwise Robin Smith, who failed twice at opener in the first test, will be promoted.

England, France taking few risks in today's playoff

PRETORIA (Reuters) — England and France, both eager to avoid having to qualify for the 1999 Rugby World Cup, have selected near full-strength teams for today's third place playoff at Loftus Versfeld.

England made just two changes to the side beaten 45-29 by New Zealand on Sunday, with coach Jack Rowell opting to "rest" winger Tony Underwood who had a rough afternoon opposite All Black giant Jonah Lomu.

Ian Hunter comes in on the right wing, with Steve Ojomoh replacing Dean Richards at number eight. Richards has been carrying a shoulder injury and it has been decided not to risk him.

France has also made a switch at number eight with 34-year-old Albert Cigagna, a stalwart of French champions Toulouse for many years, belatedly winning his first cap at the expense of Marc Cécillon.

Another 34-year-old, Franck Mesnel, has been included at fly-half instead of the off-form Christophe Deylaud. He is resuming the role he filled in the first World Cup in 1987. His then-understudy Guy Laporte is the

current French manager.

The third French alteration to the side beaten by South Africa in Saturday's soggy Durban semifinal is at prop where Laurent Benzech returns in place of Louis Armary.

The losers of today's clash will be forced to qualify for 1999 and England coach Jack Rowell insists his team will not be taking the occasion lightly.

"We're not into a thank-you match scenario," he said. "A lot hangs on this game."

Pierre Berbizier is also hoping his squad can lift themselves one more time. "This match is for the players," he said. "It is up to them to prove what they are really capable of and end this tournament on a winning note."

ENGLAND — 15-Mike Catt, 14-Ian Hunter, 13-Willie Carlisle (captain), 12-Jeremy Guscott, 11-Barry Underwood, 10-Rob Andrew, 9-Dewi Morris, 8-Simon Dani, 7-Ben Clarke, 6-Tim Rothery, 5-Martin Bayfield, 4-Marcus Jones, 3-Victor Uboha, 2-Brian Moore, 1-Jason Leonard.

FRANCE — 15-Jean-Luc Sauloy, 14-Emile Ntamack, 13-Philippe Sella, 12-Thierry Lacroix, 11-Philippe Saint-Andre (captain), 10-Franck Mesnel, 9-Fabien Collier, 8-Albert Cigagna, 7-Laurent Benzech, 6-Abdelatif Benazzi, 5-Olivier Roumat, 4-Olivier Merle, 3-Christophe Deylaud, 2-Jean-Michel Gonzalez, 1-Laurent Benzech.

Reports: Raiders to return to Oakland

OAKLAND (AP) — Los Angeles Raiders owner Al Davis has decided to move his team back to Oakland, and the Raiders will play the 1995 season in the Oakland Coliseum, a radio station reported yesterday.

KCBS-AM quoted an unidentified source as saying Oakland Coliseum officials will formally announce today that the Raiders will be playing here this fall.

In addition, sports commentator and former Raiders coach John Madden reported on radio station KNBR yesterday that the team will be returning.

The Raiders have played their home games at the Los Angeles Coliseum since winning the right to move in an antitrust suit and abandoning Oakland in 1982.

But Davis announced earlier the team would not play in the Los Angeles Coliseum this fall, citing conditions and lack of luxury suites at the aging facility.

Oakland's offer is for an \$85 million modernization of the Oakland Coliseum, including the luxury suites Davis wants.

Armstrong sold to Tottenham

LONDON (AP) — Striker Chris Armstrong joined Tottenham yesterday in a \$4.5-million transfer from Crystal Palace.

Armstrong, 24, signed a four-year contract with Spurs after turning down an offer from Everton.

Armstrong scored eight goals

this year for Palace, which was relegated to the first division. His performances were overshadowed by a four-match suspension for smoking cannabis.

Manager Gerry Francis said Armstrong's signing was a morale-booster after the recent departure of Juergen Klinsmann.

TUESDAY'S NL RESULTS: Philadelphia 8, New York 2; Pittsburgh 5, San Francisco 3; Houston 7, Montreal 4; Atlanta 10, Cincinnati 2; St. Louis 7, Los Angeles 6; Florida 7, Colorado 2; Chicago 7, San Diego 2.

TUESDAY'S AL RESULTS: Oakland 5, Minnesota 2; Cleveland 9, Boston 2; Milwaukee 5, Toronto 3; Texas 6, Detroit 6; Seattle 9, Chicago 5; Baltimore 6, New York 7; California 3, Kansas City 2.

The Sports Pages are edited by Joseph Hoffman

Union strife threatens NBA labor negotiations

NEW YORK (AP) — The progress the NBA and its players association are making toward a new labor deal could be scuttled by strife within the union.

While the framework of a new NBA labor deal emerged Tuesday, the list of disgruntled players wanting to break from the union grew.

The players association were expected to have presented an offer to player representatives yesterday, with a vote scheduled for tomorrow. But agents were urging their clients to sign decertification notices rather than vote against any proposal.

The tactic angered union president Buck Williams of the Portland Trail Blazers, who accused agents of "trying to dictate policy."

"This union is run by and for players, not agents," Williams said. "Apparently,

these agents have heard bits and pieces of the deal we are working on, and they don't think certain parts of the deal are good for their business. They have responded by claiming the players are uninformed, which could not be further from the truth."

Hakeem Olajuwon, who led the Houston Rockets to their second consecutive NBA title last week, criticized the headline stand of some of his colleagues.

"It's a good deal when both parties are happy," said Olajuwon. "The NBA has made such tremendous progress in the last seven or eight years. It would not be wise to let the greed come in."

If the union were decertified, any labor agreement it negotiated would be nullified, antitrust rules would no longer be in place and players would be able to take legal action against the league.

Meanwhile, Williams and Simon Gourdine, the union's executive director, met Tuesday with NBA deputy commissioner Russell Granik to work out details of the agreement.

Under the proposed six-year deal, players would receive a greater share of revenues — approximately 57 percent, up from the 53% they currently receive. Included in the sources of revenues would be money generated by luxury skyboxes, club seats and international television.

The agreement would feature a rookie salary cap and limit rookie contracts to three years, after which a player would become an unrestricted free agent.

The college draft would remain at two rounds for the first three years of the agreement, but would be cut to one for the final three years.

The provisions, however, do not sit well with the 15-member board of agents, which advises the union on labor negotiations.

Agent Marc Fleisher, who represents about 15 NBA players and is a board member, said he had a list of more than 50 players who signed decertification notices, and other agents were gathering signatures as well.

The decertification effort started Monday, when Michael Jordan, Patrick Ewing and Alonzo Mourning, all clients of agent David Falk, signed notices after complaining the union wasn't keeping them informed on the negotiations.

The last labor agreement expired at the end of the 1993-94 season, and last season was played under a no-strike, no-lockout pact.

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LEGAL

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF KINGS

NP FUNDING II LP, Plaintiff

— against —

ELANA BERKOWITZ and ELLY BERKOWITZ

If living or dead, any spouse, heirs-at-law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, assignees, lienors, creditors, successors in interest and generally all persons having or claiming under by or through said defendants by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise, of any right title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint, and the respective spouse(s), widow or widower(s) of them, if any, all of whose names are unknown to the plaintiff; and "JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #10", the last ten names being fictitious and unknown to the plaintiffs, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises described in the complaint.

Defendants.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS,

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance, in the plaintiff's attorneys within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service or within thirty (30) days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Dated: New York, New York 1995

CASSIN CASSIN & JOSEPH
Attorneys for Plaintiff
300 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017
(212) 972-6161

To the above named Defendants:

ELLY BERKOWITZ and ELANA BERKOWITZ

The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Hon. William J. Garry, Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, dated March 10, 1995, and subsequently amended by order of the court dated May 25, 1995, and filed with the supporting papers in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Kings.

The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage dated March 27, 1986, and recorded May 8, 1986 in the office of the Kings County Clerk/Register in Real 1508 of mortgages at page 154 of certain property which is situated at 4202 Highland Avenue, Brooklyn, New York, being a plot 100 ft. x 100 ft.

Dated: New York, New York 1995

CASSIN CASSIN & JOSEPH
Attorneys for Plaintiff
300 East 42nd Street
New York, New York 10017
(212) 972-6161

150,000 Israelis can't marry here

JACOB DALLAL

MORE than 150,000 Israelis, who claim to be Jewish, are ineligible for marriage here under Jewish law, Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet reported to the Knesset Law Committee yesterday.

The vast majority are people not considered halachically Jewish, many of them new immigrants from the former Soviet Union. There are also 3,750 Jews on the blacklist of those prohibited from marrying other Jews, Shetreet said.

Shetreet appeared before the committee to explain his recent attempts at reform of that list. He explained that several rabbis, under the auspices of Chief Sephardi Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron, are reviewing it.

In the few weeks since the issue was raised, more than 1,000 names have been already been eliminated, and the list is expected to be reduced further. It contained names of people who have already died, and others who simply did not belong on it.

Shetreet said that for years no one had reviewed the list, which was kept in a computer, until he had insisted on getting a copy of it several weeks ago.

When a couple wanted to marry, their identification numbers would be sent by the local rabbinate to the Ministry of Religious Affairs. A clerk would punch in their identity numbers and if one of them appeared on the

list, they would be told they could not.

"They [the Ministry of Religious Affairs] let couples know, on average, two weeks before the wedding," Shetreet said. "If one of the names appeared on the list, the couple would be forced to cancel the wedding."

There were a few instances in which people committed suicide when they found out they could not marry, Shetreet said. However, he rejected the call for civil marriage. "There is not a national consensus for civil marriage, in addition to the religious problems involved," he said.

At the same time, he repeated his call that the state should pay the expenses of those people who wish to be married abroad. "The minimum of the minimum the state can do is say we'll worry about subsidizing an alternative way to get married," he said.

Committee Chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz) said many people are finding alternatives to religious state marriages. He noted that the number of marriages per year has remained unchanged since 1974, while the population has almost doubled.

If people are ineligible to marry here, many of them go to Cyprus, while other get a certificate of marriage from Paraguay through the mail.

Supreme Court: Police can listen only to those named in wiretap order

EVELYN GORDON

IF a wiretap order does not give explicit permission to eavesdrop on anyone who uses a given line, then the police can legally listen in only on those people whose names are listed on the order, the Supreme Court ruled yesterday in a split decision.

The case involved 882 grams of cocaine, which arrived at a Tel Aviv post office addressed to Dr. Guy Kendall, an Eilat dentist. The police received permission to wiretap Kendall's home and office, and thereby overheard a conversation between Ellen and Yosef Ben-Hamou. On the basis of this tape, the Ben-Hamou and Mordechai Nahmias were indicted for drug dealing.

Tel Aviv District Court, however, said the wiretap evidence was inadmissible, because the wiretap order listed only Kendall's name, without specifying that it applied to all callers on the line. Without this evidence, the case collapsed, and the defendants were acquitted. The state then appealed, saying the wiretap order should be read as applying to all callers on the line if it did not specify otherwise.

Justices Gavriel Bach and Aharon Barak, with Eliahu Mazza dissenting, upheld the

lower court ruling. Bach noted that the law permits the police to ask for a permit for all callers on the line; if they did not, then they cannot act as if they did.

"In my eyes this is not a formal-technical distinction," Bach said, because a judge has to know how great an invasion of privacy he is being asked to okay before he gives a wiretap order.

And if a judge refuses to approve eavesdropping on all callers on the line, the police will simply have to have someone to monitor the wiretap, to avoid tapping calls that should not be

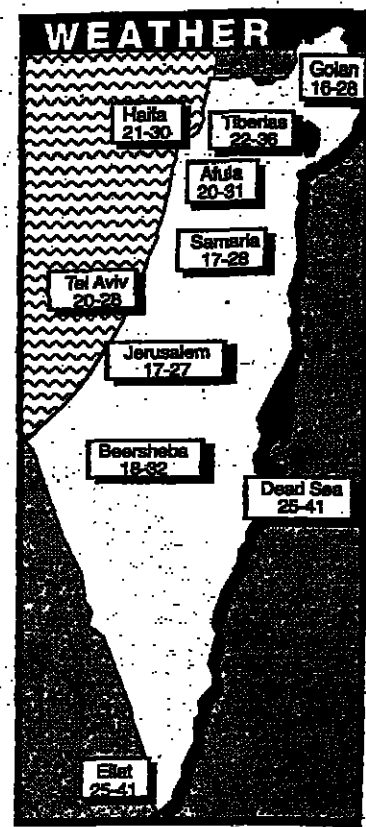
taped, he continued.

Mazza, in his dissenting opinion, said that if the issuing judge does not limit a wiretap order to a specific person, then it should apply to all calls on that line, since the wording of the law leaves a loophole for such cases. It says the identifying details of those being eavesdropped on must be given "if they are known in advance."

The only reason for not accepting illegally made tapes as evidence, he added, is to deter illegal wiretapping. There is no reason to "deter" wiretaps done in good faith with a wiretap order in hand, he said.



Yousuf Koran, 22, of the Beduin town of Kuseifa in the Negev, is arrested on Friday for the May 24 murder of Avraham Hadad, 77, a shepherd from Moshav Eshat'ol in the Ela Valley. Hadad's death had originally been called a work accident, but Jerusalem Magistrate's Court yesterday allowed the fact he had been murdered to be published. Koran, who has been remanded for 15 days, admitted the killing, saying he wanted to steal Hadad's gun to sell to a man who had approached him. (Brian Header)



AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	MOON
Amsterdam	12	54	25-77	cloudy
Berlin	18	61	25-77	cloudy
Bombay	24	86	10-15	clear
Calcutta	24	86	10-15	clear
Chennai	24	86	10-15	clear
Copenhagen	14	57	20-60	cloudy
Frankfurt	17	60	20-60	cloudy
Hong Kong	24	86	10-15	clear
London	14	57	20-60	cloudy
Los Angeles	16	59	20-60	cloudy
Madrid	18	61	20-60	cloudy
Moscow	18	61	20-60	cloudy
New York	20	63	20-60	cloudy
Paris	18	61	20-60	cloudy
Stockholm	18	61	20-60	cloudy
Tokyo	20	63	20-60	cloudy
Vienna	18	61	20-60	cloudy

State says it's not responsible for soldier killing a Palestinian

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE state yesterday maintained it had no responsibility for the death of a Palestinian during a riot, even though he was shot in the head with a rubber bullet by a soldier, Army Radio reported yesterday.

The widow and two children of the victim, Yousuf Abu Eid, are suing the state and the soldier, Eli Yedid, for NIS 1.6 million.

Yedid was a private who had undergone minimal basic training and was serving as a mechanic in March 1988 when, after five months in the army, he and a group of other rear-echelon troops, including barbers, were placed in a unit ordered to break up disturbances in the village of Bidu, near Givat Ze'ev. During the riots, Yedid fired a rubber bullet at the head of Abu Eid from a dis-

stance of less than a meter. Yedid, who contended he had never been instructed about the proper range at which to fire rubber bullets, was court-martialed on a charge of manslaughter and sentenced to 21 months in prison.

Last year, Abu Eid's family filed suit in Jerusalem District Court. "The state," Yaron Bushan, a senior deputy in the regional District Attorney's Office, told the court yesterday, "never permitted the soldier to do these things, they were not done by at the state's request or with its agreement. Yedid's lawyer maintained his client was sent to do a job he had not been properly trained to do, and demanded the state accept responsibility in the framework of an employer-employee relationship."

Counterfeiting ring held for planned flood of bills

RAINE MARCUS

THE National Crimes Squad and Tel Aviv detectives arrested a gang of Arabs and Jews yesterday morning which allegedly planned to print counterfeit bank notes worth millions of dollars, police announced last night.

According to police, one gang member, found in possession of a silencer, planned to murder another man, unconnected with the counterfeiting.

Police decided to arrest the eight residents of Tel Aviv, Ashdod, Baka Al-Gharbiya, Ramle, Bethlehem and Holon, to stop the murder from being carried out.

The gang, said police, planned to

manufacture counterfeit dollars, dinars and shekels. Graphic equipment, bank note paper, and a number of forged \$100 bills were seized in the raids.

The National Crimes squad has been working on the case for several months and has gathered intelligence information and mounted surveillance operations. All members, aged 25 to 65, are known to police, and will appear in Tel Aviv and Petah Tikva Magistrate's Courts for remand hearings this morning.

Police said they have sufficient evidence to prove the gang planned "to flood the market" with forged bank notes.

Suspect in French murder case faces remand hearing here today

ROLAND Fresnai, the French citizen wanted for murder in France, and will appear in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court for a remand hearing this morning.

Fresnai, 43, who was arrested in Tel Aviv on Tuesday night, is suspected of committing a robbery and murder on the outskirts of Paris several months ago.

An international arrest warrant was issued by Interpol, and Fresnai was captured in a Tel Aviv apartment after police were tipped off.

The French authorities have applied for his extradition, and the state attorney is expected to comply with their demand.

Raine Marcus

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TAN ADV.

SO, WHAT BONUS WOULD YOU PREFER ON THURSDAY ?

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My Choice For The Thursday Magazine:

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles Times | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel and Tourism |
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How many years in Israel?

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| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 or less | <input type="checkbox"/> 10-15 |
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To participate in the draw for a free subscription, fill in here: Name: _____

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The draw will be held at The Jerusalem Post offices on July 16, 1995 in the presence of an accountant. All questionnaires received by that date will participate in the draw. The winner's name will be announced in The Jerusalem Post, and the winner will be notified.

YOUR WEEK JUST GOT EVEN BRIGHTER THE JERUSALEM POST

Jerusalem